



2023-24 Graduate Fellow Luka Vergoz. Photo by Andria Lo.

Program Details: Graduate Fellowship

Headlands Center for the Arts' Graduate Fellowships provide meaningful support to recent, promising studio art MFA graduates, in partnership with six esteemed Bay Area academic institutions. The program is unique in the country for addressing this critical juncture in an emerging artist's career, giving aspiring post-grads opportunities for professional development and a chance to define their practice outside of the academic context.

Graduate Fellows receive private studio space; chef-prepared meals; public presentation opportunities, including participation in a culminating curated exhibition; and discounts on Headlands' public events. Graduate Fellows are active participants in Headlands peer-to-peer-driven creative community and benefit from engagement with local, national, and international artists participating in Headlands artists' programs.

Program Goals

- Support recent MFA graduates as they transition from art school into professional life.
- Help to ensure that the Bay Area remains a supportive and vital creative home for emerging artists.
- Create a thriving cultural center for Bay Area artists to participate in a national and international creative community.



Application and Award Period

The 2024-2025 program runs from July 31, 2024–July 21, 2025. Graduating students from participating MFA programs will receive application instructions in the spring semester of 2024. The SlideRoom application site opens on February 17, 2024 and closes on March 29, 2024.

Headlands Center for the Arts is an equal opportunity institution that believes a diverse artist cohort is essential to our community. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

Please make sure to review the following information about the program's offerings, location, eligibility requirements, and selection process before applying.

Program Details

- Award period: from July 31, 2024– July 21, 2025
- 110- to 150-sq.-foot studio (work only/live-out, non-residential)
- Participation in Headlands Graduate Fellow exhibition
- Facilities access:
 - Basic woodshop
 - Artists' library with computers, scanner, and printers
 - Communal kitchen access and gathering space, as Covid-19 restrictions allow
- Up to five artists in the program at a time
- Engagement with Headlands Artist community
- Chef-prepared meals
- Participation in "Show and Tell" artist presentation nights
- Participation in seasonal Open Houses
- Host one meeting with a representative or group from the Fellow's graduating institution
- Optional live-in stay of up to one week, if the Covid-19 situation permits.
- Complimentary admission to Headlands Public Events (space permitting)
- Become part of Headlands' Alumni Network

Eligibility

- Applications are by nomination only
- Nominations are limited to graduating MFA students from five co-sponsoring institutions: California College of the Arts; San Francisco State University; Stanford University; UC Berkeley; and UC Davis



Selection Criteria

- Quality of work
- Potential to develop and advance creative practice through engaging with Headland's unique site, artist's programs, and community at large
- Ability to be present on-site and to contribute dynamically to the community of Headlands Artists
- Practical fit between applicant's practice and the technological and physical realities of Headlands' historic facilities and campus set within a National Park:
 - A basic woodshop, letterpress, and limited tech and A/V equipment are the only technical resources on-site. There are no metal, ceramics, or other specialized facilities available
 - Wi-Fi in the studios is somewhat limited
 - Although not a non-toxic studio, as a shared space, artists are asked to be conscientious about chemical use, dust, and sound
 - Works situated off the footprint of Headlands' campus or in the landscape require special permits from the National Park Service, and may be prohibited due to impact on cultural and natural resources
 - Foraging in the Park is prohibited, as are permanent alterations to the historic buildings Headlands inhabits, and the surrounding landscape

Selection Process

- Candidates are nominated by their department or school (consult your advisor or chair for each schools' nomination process)
- Nominees submit application materials to Headlands via the SlideRoom online portal
- Submissions are reviewed by a jury of knowledgeable and esteemed artists and arts professionals
- The jury evaluates each artist's materials and selects finalists
- Finalists are invited to present their work in a 20-minute, Zoom interview to determine the final award selection
- Awardees are notified in early May 2024

For questions about the program, contact:
Ileana Tejada, Senior Manager, Fellowship Programs
itejada@headlands.org