



Program Details: 2027 Chiaro Award

The Chiaro Award is a fully sponsored artist residency and \$15,000 prize for a mid-career painter residing in the United States. The Chiaro Award residency includes a private studio, and inclusion in a dynamic network of Headlands' creative practitioners and thinkers.

Application Fee

- Early Bird (April 1–May 4, 2026): \$20
- Regular (May 5–June 1, 2026): \$25

Program Goals

- To support and have a meaningful impact on the lives and careers of accomplished painters creating exceptional and exemplary work.
- To bring outstanding painters into a nurturing and dynamic professional network of creative practitioners and thinkers.
- To encourage artists to develop ideas and work within the context of the Marin Headlands, a part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- To bring national and international artists to the Bay Area to engage and have cross-cultural exchange with local artists and audiences.

Program Details

- Fully sponsored 6- to 10-week residency with an award of \$15,000
- Paid roundtrip airfare from artist's home city
- 750 square foot studio
- Private bedroom in shared house
- A maximum two week stay for families in the Family House
 - (by request only and subject to availability)
- Four chef-prepared meals per week
- Use of Headlands' vehicles
- Facilities access: basic woodshop; audio/video equipment; artists' library with computer
- Print lab with large format printer
- Wi-Fi in studio, housing and Headlands main buildings
- Up to 17 Artists in Residence living on-site
- Up to 7 other Headlands' artists working on-site
- Participation in monthly "Show + Tell" nights
- Participation in seasonal Open House
- Access to Headlands Public Events
- Access to Bay Area museums, galleries, and cultural venues
- Become part of Headlands Alumni Network



Eligibility

- Artists who work primarily with painting & currently live in the United States.
- Mid-career artists not currently enrolled in an academic program.
- Alumni of Headlands' Artists Programs are eligible to apply for the Chiaro Award, with the exception of previous recipients of Bay Area Fellowship, Chamberlain, Henderson, Pritzker, McLaughlin, Palimpsest, Chiaro, or Tournesol Awards.
- Must be able to speak basic English.

Selection Criteria

- Merit of past work.
- Demonstrated commitment to pursuing excellence and innovation in the discipline of painting.
- Readiness to engage with and benefit from the residency experience at Headlands (see program goals).
- Potential to derive benefit from the Award overall, develop individual creative practice, and impact the community at Headlands and beyond.

Selection Process

- Headlands' staff reviews applications to ensure completion and eligibility.
- Submissions are reviewed by a jury of knowledgeable and esteemed artists and arts professionals (particularly those with strong understanding of painting).
- The jury evaluates each artist's materials and selects finalists.
- Finalists are asked to present their work in a 20-minute Zoom interview to determine the final award selection.

Application Materials

A full application includes the following:

- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Letter of interest outlining your specific interest in working at Headlands and how the Chiaro Award will affect your creative practice
- List of three references and email addresses; please note, we do not want letters of reference
- Documentation of recent work.

Documentation

- Submit up to 12 images.
- Submission of an image list with title, date, size, media, and, where applicable, conceptual intent, is optional.

For questions about this program, contact Holly Blake, Senior Residency Manager, at hblake@headlands.org.