

MAKER'S MARKS: ART, CRAFT AND THE FIBER OF CHANGE

EXHIBITION PROSPECTUS

NICHOLS HOUSE MUSEUM MISSION AND VISION:

The Nichols House Museum's mission is: To preserve and interpret the 1804 townhouse that was from 1885 until 1960 the home of Rose Standish Nichols, landscape gardener, suffragist and pacifist. The house was built by Jonathan Mason and is attributed to Charles Bulfinch. The museum educates visitors by providing a unique glimpse into the domestic life in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries on Boston's historic Beacon Hill.

Our vision is to connect the progressive ideas of the Nichols family, with contemporary culture. We question assumptions about societal roles past and present and recognize that our story is rooted in a desire for change. The museum strives to position the voices of the Nichols sisters in dialogue with a wide range of perspectives to create new and mindful interpretations of the house. We are constantly rethinking what it means to be an historic house museum in the 21st century.

EXHIBITION CONCEPT:

The Nichols House Museum is planning a thematic series of programming and events for 2017 entitled "Maker's Marks: Art, Craft and the Fiber of Change." The programming will include an exhibition that aims to join the history of craft in the Nichols family with emerging artists engaged in traditional craft practices.

The three Nichols sisters, Rose, Marian and Margaret, came of age during a critical time in American craft history: the Arts and Crafts movement, active from 1880—1910. Following the Industrial Revolution and widespread abandonment of cottage industries, champions of the Arts and Crafts movement William Morris and John Ruskin, were calling for a return to handcrafts for the sake of beauty, quality and social progress. The values maintained and taught by members of the Arts and Crafts movement impacted the educations, careers and politics of the Nichols sisters.

The Nichols sisters were instructed in handcrafts from a young age. Letters, memoirs, and objects in the museum's collection tell the story of their work with sewing, pottery and woodworking. The three Nichols sisters were not simply object makers. They also utilized their skills to educate and advocate for people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. For this exhibition, the Nichols House Museum intends to harness the same spirit of making and community engagement with craft in order to expand our interpretation of the Nichols family's history.

Artists are asked to create a proposal for a site specific installation to be shown in one of the rooms of the Nichols House Museum from March 2017 - August 2017.

RULES OF ENTRY:

1. This call is open to student and emerging artists over the age of 21 with no gallery representation.
2. All artists must have visited the Nichols House Museum prior to submitting their proposal.
3. The proposed work must include (but is not limited to) cloth, ceramic or wood.
4. The work must conceptually relate to the history of the Nichols family.
5. The work must be installed without disturbing or damaging the house or the collection objects.*
6. The work must not interrupt the visitors' ability to move safely throughout the rooms.*

JURY

Dina Deitsch: Interim Executive Director of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University

Judith Leemann: Assistant Professor, Fine Arts: 3-D, Massachusetts College of Art and Design

Emma Welty: Head of Collections, Nichols House Museum

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please email the following materials to ewelty@nicholshousemuseum.org by January 16, 2016.

1. 3-5 images (jpeg) of representative work. If the images include the actual work you are submitting for installation or a drawing of your proposed work please make a note of that on your image list.
2. Completed application form and image list (pdf).
3. CV/Resume (pdf).

CALENDAR

January 16, 2017 - Deadline to submit proposals

January 31, 2017 - Juror notification

March 28, 2017 - Drop off of work**

April 6, 2017 - Opening Reception

August 18, 2017 - Show closes/Pick up work

**Please note: Installing contemporary works in a historic house museum has its complications based on collection care, visitor experience and historic preservation. Installation prohibitions include, but are not limited to: drilling holes in any surface, altering or damaging any collection object and introducing perishable materials to the house. The application is calling for proposals rather than finished work so that the museum can consult with the artists regarding size, material and installation limitations. If the jury is interested in your application but there are concerns with the proposed installation method, they may reach out to you to discuss options to exhibit the work in the most meaningful and safe way.*

***Artists who need to be present for the installation of their piece must indicate that in their proposal.*

Please reach out with any questions or research requests to Emma Welty at

ewelty@nicholshousemuseum.org.

IMAGE LIST

IMAGE 1:

TITLE _____

MEDIUM _____

DIMENSIONS _____

NOTES _____

IMAGE 2:

TITLE _____

MEDIUM _____

DIMENSIONS _____

NOTES _____

IMAGE 3:

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IMAGE 4:

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IMAGE 5:

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NOTE: Please name each image in the following format: LastName_Image#