SPECTOR
CRAFT PRIZE

SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL

What is the Spector Craft Prize?

Founded by the Spector Family Foundation, the Spector Craft Prize is a three-part initiative championing American craft by supporting craft artists at pivotal moments in their careers. The three parts include:

- The Spector Craft Prize, which honors an established craft artist with an acquisition of their work by the host museum funded by the Spector Family Foundation.
- The Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists, which awards a $10,000 grant and mentorship opportunities to five craft artists with seven years or less within their professional craft practice.
- The Spector Craft Summit, which exists annually as a national convening featuring discussions with leading figures in American craft, mentorship, and community-building.

Is the Spector Craft Prize open internationally?

No, the Spector Craft Prize is focused on American craft, and applicants must live and work in the United States.

SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE

Can you apply for the Spector Craft Prize?

The Spector Craft Prize, which honors a mid-career artist—is not an application-based award. The Prize recipient is determined by the Spector Family Foundation and the host museum. Nominations for the Spector Craft Prize may be submitted through our Advisory Board.

SPECTOR CRAFT PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

What is the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists?

The Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists is a juried prize honoring five exceptional makers with seven years or less of studio practice.

What do winners of the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists receive?

Emerging Artists receive a $10,000 financial award, mentorship opportunities, participation in the Spector Craft Summit, and professional network development.

What craft disciplines are eligible for the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists?

We accept applications from the following disciplines: ceramics, textiles, woodworking, glass, metalwork, basketry, and paper arts. All works must demonstrate mastery of fundamental techniques while pushing creative boundaries. If your craft practice exists outside of these disciplines or combines a number of them and you are unsure of your eligibility, email us at info@spectorcraftprize.org for more clarification.

ELIGIBILITY

When do the seven years begin?

Our eligibility window begins seven years prior to the application deadline. For the 2026-27 Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists, eligible applicants must have begun their professional craft practice after February 2020.

I am not a citizen of the United States. Can I still apply?

Yes. For the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists, we accept applications from individuals who live and work in the United States and can properly complete a Form W-9.

I am an older craft artist. Can I be considered for the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists?

Eligibility for this Prize is about the number of years actively working in your craft, not your age. We consider individuals with seven years or less from the beginning of their professional craft practice to be eligible for the Emerging Artists Prize.

What does a "professional craft practice" mean?

We define professional craft practice as a dedicated studio practice outside of school or formal education.

I graduated from craft school over seven years ago, but I began my professional craft practice within the past seven years. Am I still eligible to apply for the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists?

Yes. As long as your professional craft practice began within the last seven years, you are eligible to apply.

Craft has been a hobby of mine for some time. Should I apply?

While we accept applications from self-taught artists, your practice should be a full-time, professional pursuit, not a part-time hobby. In the end, it is up to you to judge your commitment to your practice before taking the time to submit.

Are collaborative duos or two-artist practices eligible?

Yes, they are eligible, but they will receive a singular award. Make sure to indicate both individuals in the application.

May I apply from outside the United States, or as an international student resident abroad?

You may apply if you are living and working in the U.S. and can accurately complete a Form W-9.

If I hold a non-US passport but live and work in the US, which identification is acceptable?

You can submit any form of identification, including a Visa or Driver's license.

When do the seven years begin?

Our eligibility window begins seven years prior to the application deadline. For the 2026-27 Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists, eligible applicants must have begun their professional craft practice after February 2020. If your practice began before February 2020, was halted by a significant interruption, and started again after February 2020, you may be eligible only if your combined years of practice total seven or fewer.

How are the seven years counted when craft is a recent pivot from a longer career in another field?

The Spector Craft Prize is intended for emerging artists in the craft field, and we hope that applicants will respect this intention when considering whether to apply. If you have shifted to craft from another discipline, you may be eligible if your pivot began

within the last seven years. In the Eligibility Confirmation section of the application, please clearly indicate when your craft practice began, and explain the re-orientation of your practice.

Can the emerging timeline account for career pauses, for example while raising a family?

If you have taken time away from your professional life, then you may be eligible to apply even if you began your career more than seven years ago. In the Eligibility Confirmation section of the application, please provide a clear timeline of your practice, including any interruptions. You may be eligible only if your combined years of practice total seven or fewer.

Does a hybrid or interdisciplinary practice qualify (photo-based zines, photography, public art, glass furniture, limited-edition cabinetry)?

We understand that craft today takes many forms, many of them hybridized with other aspects of practice. With this in mind we do encourage interdisciplinary artists to apply. However, bear in mind that we will be judging applications specifically on their strengths in craft.

EMERGING ARTISTS APPLICATION

When is the deadline to apply for the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists?

Applications for the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists open on November 1, 2026 and close on February 15, 2027.

What do I have to submit to apply for the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists?

To apply for the Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists, you must submit:

- A completed application
- A biographical summary (150 words maximum)
- Four short essay questions
    - Statement of Practice (200 words maximum)
    - Process of Submitted Work (100 words maximum)
    - Significance of Submitted Work (100 words maximum)
    - Why the Spector Craft Prize? (125 words maximum)
- Two to five high-resolution images of submitted work (with scale reference and neutral background)
- A copy of government-issued photo identification

Is there an application fee?

No, this application does not have a fee.

Do you have to submit the application all at once?

No, the submissions portal automatically saves your entry as you type, so you are able to edit your application at any time. Make sure to thoroughly review your application before submitting, as you will be unable to make any changes after submission.

Can I submit a piece of original work that I created five years ago?

No, we consider submitted work that was created within the last three years. However, you may submit work created at any time in your career portfolio.

May I mail a hard copy of my application materials to your office?

No, please submit your application online.

What should I do if I am having trouble uploading my work?

Email support@spectorcraftprize.org with your issue and we will assist you in troubleshooting.

SUBMITTED WORK AND FILE UPLOADS

For my primary submitted work, may I submit several different works, or must all images be different views of one work?

You may submit different views of a singular work or series as your Submitted work. You may also submit up to five works in your career portfolio.

Are composite images, meaning multiple views within one file, allowed?

No, you may only submit one image per file.

Must scale-reference photos be professionally shot, or is an informal snapshot acceptable?

No, scale reference photos do not have to be professionally shot.

For scale, may I include a common object or a person?

Yes, you may use anything that clearly indicates the size of your work.

What exactly satisfies the government-issued photo ID requirement, and is a passport or driver's license acceptable?

Yes, a passport or driver's license is acceptable. We are looking for any legal identification document that can prove that you reside in the U.S.

May I submit multiple pieces from a series, and if so how many?

Yes, you can submit up to 5 pieces from a series as your submitted work.

May the submitted work be one currently on view in an upcoming exhibition?

Yes; however, it must be in your sole possession at the time of submission.

May I submit work I have already sold or given away?

No, your submitted work must be in your sole possession at the time of submission. However, after submission, you are free to do as you please with the work. And you are able to submit any work you've created as a part of your career portfolio.

What are the file-size, format and quality limits for the optional 90-second video?

For all files, the minimum size is 800px x 600px, and the maximum file size is 2MB.

POST-APPLICATION

When and how will recipients of the 2027 Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists be notified?

Recipients of the 2027 Spector Craft Prize for Emerging Artists will be notified by email by July 2027.

When will decisions be announced, and will every applicant be notified, including those not selected?

Decisions will be announced to all applicants by July 2027.

If I win, will I have to pay taxes on my award?

Yes, you will be required to pay taxes on your award.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about the application process:

View our FAQs.

Email info@spectorcraftprize.org for all general inquiries.

Email support@spectorcraftprize.org for any application-related technical support.

Website: www.spectorcraftprize.org

The Spector Craft Prize is committed to supporting artists from diverse backgrounds and experiences. We encourage applications from artists of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, abilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds.