

FAQ – Medalta Artist in Residence Program

When are the application deadlines?

- April 15th and September 15th every year.
 - o Our April 15th deadline includes ALL the residency types we offer: Year-Long, Gwen Strojich, FLEX (2+ Months), and One-Month
 - o The September 15th deadline only accepts applications for our FLEX (2+ Month) and One-Month programs

Can you explain the different types of residencies?

- Year-Long
 - o Our Year-Long residency is the longest residency we offer; applications are only taken during our April deadline to give successful applicants enough time to move to Medicine Hat. The residency is 11 months long, running from September until July. The Year-Long residents are awarded a solo-exhibition in the Yuill Family Gallery in May; to display the work and research they've been exploring throughout their time in the studio.
- Gwen Strojich Fellowship
 - o This Fellowship is our only funded residency, which lasts one-month (or 4 weeks) and is generously sponsored by Gwen Strojich. All studio rent and lodging costs are covered by the fellowship and the successful candidate is awarded an \$1000 stipend to use towards travel costs or other fees. This residency is open to mid-career artists.
- FLEX (2 + Months or more)
 - o Our FLEX residencies can span anywhere between 2 months to 10 months. It's called FLEX because you can request a flexible amount of time, depending on the scope of the project or research you want to carry out during your time at Medalta.
- One-Month
 - o Our One-Month residency is the shortest residency we offer. It can be quite fast-paced due to the time constraints of working with ceramics, while still allowing ample time for residents to complete multifaceted projects.

Can I start my residency mid-way through the month?

- For all the different residency types (Year-Long, Gwen Strojich, FLEX, and One-Month) the first studio day is scheduled as close to the beginning of the month as possible, and the last studio day is scheduled on the last days of the month. Residency start and end dates will be relayed to applicants by the Residency Coordinator upon acceptance to the program. Mandatory orientation is held on the first studio day, after which, all residents have 24 hours access to the studio space.

How many artists do you accept into the program? What is the MAX capacity of residents?

- We usually accept between 30 – 40 artists between the April and September deadlines depending on scheduling, studio space, and resident timelines. Our MAX capacity is ten artists per month.

Do you accept emerging artists?

- We accept and encourage applications from self-taught, emerging, mid-career, and established artists, potters, and makers. We like to think that the blend of varying backgrounds, approaches, and experience levels creates a vibrant and interesting community atmosphere.

Where do residents stay during their residency?

- We are lucky to have off-site housing located ten minutes away from the studio spaces. The BMO Artist Lodge is a communal living-space with individual bedrooms, shared kitchen and living spaces. Washrooms are a combination between stalled, and private bathrooms/showers. Artists are not required to stay at the Artist Lodge, and we encourage longer term artists to find off-site housing, if possible.

If I'm selecting preferred dates to attend Medalta, are there slower times of year that are less competitive?

- Our most requested months are September, October, March, April, May, June, and July. We try to accommodate people's requests as much as possible, but we have a finite amount of studio spaces to offer. If there is flexibility in your timeline then make a note on the application form.

What does the adjudication process look like? What timeline can I expect to hear back by?

- The jury is made up of three people - often comprising of contemporary ceramicists, curators, professors, educators, etc. The week following the deadline, they individually review each application according to a rubric and meet to discuss their results. Applicants can expect to hear from the Residency Coordinator three to four weeks after the deadline.

What should my "proposal letter" include?

- Your proposal letter should consist of your interests, goals, or projects you want to complete during your time at Medalta. This can include themes around your work, ways you're looking to expand and grow your practice, research you want to complete, specific projects for exhibition or sale. The word count for the letter is 500 words MAX and should give a clear idea of why you're interested in applying to Medalta and the scope of your project.

The website describes the studio spaces as "semi-private" - what do the studio spaces look like?

- Our studio spaces are considered “semi-private” in that they are surrounded by three walls with an open wall for access in and out. The boundaries of each studio are marked on the floor to clearly indicate the private space of each resident. All our studio spaces are equipped with a 4’x8’ worktable, shelving, and ware-cart – pottery wheels and additional furniture can be added or removed according to each resident’s preferences.

Can people apply and attend Medalta more than once?

- Yes, individuals can apply to Medalta as many times as they like. We often have people attend Medalta more than once, and although there isn’t an official limit to how many times a person can attend, we may prioritize someone attending for their first time over someone who has attended multiple times. A negative response does not mean that it’s an unsuccessful application but rather that we have limited space and receive competitive applications.

If I’ve never worked with clay before, or primarily work in a different medium, is Medalta a good place for me?

- We evaluate each application on its own merit and focus on the strength of the application, quality of documentation, and project proposal. A base understanding of ceramics is preferred, but can be through self-taught experience, formal training, or other approaches.

How much technical support is available to the resident artists?

- Medalta has a Studio Technician who is here to support, orient, and help problem solve your projects during your time here. However, since our studios are 24-hour access, we have an expectation that people are capable of working independently.

How do I get to Medalta, Medicine Hat?

- Medicine Hat has a local airport, and the closest international airport is located in Calgary, Alberta which is a three-hour drive. Shuttle services from Calgary can be coordinated in advance, and cabs run through the city to take you from the airport to wherever you’re staying during your residency.