



116 – 118 Chalmers Street, Surry Hills NSW 2011

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# Information for Curator Applicants 2011

## Applications close 6pm Friday, 12 August 2011

*(To have arrived by mail or hand delivered to Firstdraft Gallery. Applications assessment begins Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 August.)*

### About Firstdraft

Firstdraft is a non-profit gallery run on a voluntary basis by a group of practising artists and curators. It is one of the longest running and most successful artist-run spaces in Australia. Firstdraft asserts the importance of contemporary art production, dissemination and discussion in society, providing a stimulating exhibition space that is professional and accessible for a diverse range of artistic practices and projects.

### The Emerging Curators Program

Firstdraft invites applications for Emerging Curators exhibitions to be staged in the first half of 2012. Through the Emerging Curators Program, Firstdraft aims to encourage innovative curators or artist-curators to:

- Expand their professional practice by conceiving of and realising an exhibition project at the gallery.
- Provide exhibition space and funding for a publication that accompanies the creative project.
- Encourage creative dialogue and discussion through public artist and curator talks.

### Firstdraft will provide the successful applicants with:

- A three-week exhibition in the whole gallery (including promotion and opening costs).
- Access to and assistance with Firstdraft's equipment and resources.
- Funding of up to \$1,500.00 for the production of a catalogue that accompanies the show and a curatorial fee.

### Eligibility

- For the purposes of this application you must consider yourself to be 'emerging'
- Firstdraft will consider applications from any individual meeting these selection criteria regardless of race, ethnicity, sexuality or gender.
- Applications from collaborating artists are also welcome, but due to the nature of the program will receive no extra allowances.
- There is no restriction on the thematic or the types of artwork that will be considered; however due to our grant requirements, the exhibition should consist primarily of emerging artists.

### Further details

- Following the initial written application due on the 12 August 2011, the selected applicant/s will be asked to meet with Firstdraft Directors to expand on their proposed project. This process is designed to develop dialogue around the project and is a chance for you to talk through your ideas with a supportive network of peers. The process is also an opportunity to provide constructive feedback and strengthen your professional practice skills.
- The successful applicant will be expected to enter into a contract with Firstdraft prior to commencing the Emerging Curators Program. This contract will include the standard loan agreement and requirements for exhibiting in the space.

- The selected curator/s will be responsible for organising the exhibition. Namely, the selection of artists and artwork, communication with the artists, sourcing and liability for external equipment, supervising installation and de-installation.
- The selected curator/s will be encouraged to develop the catalogue idea parallel to the development of the exhibition and have the catalogue available for opening night, unless documenting the actual work in the exhibition in which case should be produced promptly after install. Innovative and experimental printing & publication approaches are encouraged.

The Emerging Curators Program has produced some exceptional projects, such as *Turning Tricks* curated by Soda\_Jerk (2005), *Plastic Myth* curated by James Steele (2006), *Potent* curated by Ben Byrne (2006), *Taint* curated by Clare Lewis (2010), *Double Glazed* curated by Even Books (2010) & *Spectacle Obstacle* curated by Superkaleidoscope (2011). The 2007 program featured *The (body) Reinstated* curated by Louise Dibben, *Clip Art* curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham and *Between You And Me*, curated by Anneke Jaspers. In 2008 we supported *I am a Good Boy* curated by Elise Routledge, *The Science Fair* curated by Kat Barron, *This Is Curating (1-50 Results)* by Joel Mu and *Performing for the Camera* by Kell Doley and Di Smith. In 2009 Firstdraft supported *Game is Good* by Michaela Gleave, *Visage* by Felix Rattcliff and *Names and Places* by Ivan Muñiz Reed.

Catalogues from these exhibitions can be viewed at the gallery or the Firstdraft Depot, should you wish to access these publications, please contact the directors prior at [mail@firstdraftgallery.com](mailto:mail@firstdraftgallery.com)

### Requirements

- **All applications must be received by mail or hand delivered to Firstdraft gallery on or before 6pm Friday 12 August 2011 in PDF format on CD or DVD along with a completed printed hard copy of the application form.**
- Late, faxed, hardcopy or incomplete applications will not be considered
- Please include your name at the top of each page.
- Applicants will be notified within 2 months of the closing date, if they are successful in reaching the second round of application.
- The program is open to emerging artists / curators from throughout Australia, however no further funding is available for curatorial/artists' travel or freight of exhibition materials.
- All decisions made by Firstdraft relating to applications for this program are final and no correspondence will be entered in to.

### Checklist

Have you;

- Completed all sections of this application form (**one A4 page max**)?
- Included prior curatorial experience support material. Either: **10 JPG images max** formatted into a single PDF; OR a playable DVD [video] or CD [audio] **duration 5 mins max**; OR prior published material, reviews, curatorial statements etc. (**two A4 pages max**)? Support material should illustrate a previously curated exhibition and/or your ideas for the proposed exhibition. *Firstdraft does not return any sent material, so do not send anything you need back.*
- Attached a copy of your curriculum vitae (**one A4 page max**)?
- Attached an abridged curriculum vitae of the artists you are considering for the exhibition where possible (**ideally up to half A4 page max per artist**)?
- Included a **printed, completed application form** with your submission?

Directors read many applications- **shorter, clear, well-written applications work best**- more information is not necessarily more helpful. Think **what** am I going to do? **Why** do I want to do it? **How** am I going to do it? **What** will it look like?

**For further information:**

Contact Firstdraft at [mail@firstdraftgallery.com](mailto:mail@firstdraftgallery.com)

**116 - 118 Chalmers Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010**

**Please mail the printed completed application form and all support materials in electronic format on a CD or DVD to:**

Firstdraft Emerging Curators Program  
Firstdraft  
116-118 Chalmers Street  
Surry Hills NSW 2010

**NOTE: Be sure to keep a personal copy of your application, as Firstdraft cannot return applications to the sender. Applications must be received at the gallery on or before 6pm Friday, 12 August, 2011.**

*Firstdraft is assisted by the Australian Government and the NSW Government through THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS STRATEGY.*

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# Emerging Curators Application Form 2012

Application must be supplied as a PDF document on CD or DVD (with a print out of this one page application form enclosed.)

## APPLICANT DETAILS

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb/town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ P'code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Australian Business Number (ABN): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you GST Registered? Yes / No

Preferred period for the exhibition (Please circle):

Jan - March 2012 / April - June 2012

Proposed Exhibition Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Media: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Artists: \_\_\_\_\_

• Two sentence summary of proposed exhibition:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Please outline clearly and succinctly (on one separate A4 sheet)

- The proposed thematic / conceptual concerns for the show you would like to curate
- How the exhibition theme will be developed through the artwork presented
- Examples of the types of work you are considering for the show
- The artists you intend to invite to take part in the exhibition
- Your prior curatorial experience
- Your experience in the production of an exhibition catalogue

**Answers to the following questions will not affect decisions regarding your application.**

- Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander decent? Yes / No
- How did you hear about Firstdraft and this program?

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- Have you ever attended a Firstdraft opening? Yes / No
  - Would you like to be placed on the Firstdraft email list? Yes / No

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