SAQA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

**Mentee Application**

The SAQA Mentorship Program is a goal or project-based program open to any SAQA member seeking a one-on-one mentorship for a period lasting up to twelve months. Artists at any stage in their careers can become Mentees. Mentors are volunteers who share their wisdom and skills and provide supportive critique to their mentees.

**Mentorship Goals**

Mentorships will focus on assisting an artist achieve specific goals or projects within a prearranged timeframe. Goals can range from guidance in artistic development and finding an artistic voice to more task oriented goals such as composing an artist’s statement, completing a grant application, developing a record keeping system or preparing work for exhibition.

**Juried Artist Member Application Mentorship** is a specialized mentoring service that helps artists prepare their application to become a Juried Artist Member (but it cannot guarantee acceptance). It can also help artists reapply to become a Juried Artist, when their initial applications were not accepted. The mentor will look at the art selected for submission, evaluate the professional documents required by the application, and make suggestions. The final decisions about what to submit are the artist’s.

If you are interested in mentorship for JAM Application Portfolio Preparation at this time, contact Sharon Bass at [bass@mac.com](mailto:bass@mac.com) for additional information (do not complete this Mentorship application).

**Matching Mentors & Mentees**

Mentors will be matched to potential Mentee applicants based areas of expertise, as much as possible, however general knowledge based on personal experience is often the most valuable expertise for a mentor. Mentors will be contacted and asked to review a potential Mentee’s application. If the Mentor accepts the applicant and the Mentee is amenable, they will be matched.

**Are you ready for the Mentorship Program?** An artist is ready to participate in the SAQA Mentorship Program if he or she is:

* comfortable with the basic techniques of the art form and desires feedback and guidance to continue developing as an artist.
* self-motivated and willing to take advantage of available opportunities.
* eager to learn new skills and abilities and to develop existing skills and abilities.
* willing to be an active participant in the Mentorship Program.
* able to meet with the Mentor and maintain regular contact, as determined by the Mentor/Mentee pair.
* able to communicate and cooperate with others.
* willing to work hard, share knowledge, be open to new experiences, and have fun.

**Roles and Responsibilities of a Mentee** The success of the SAQA Mentorship Program is dependent on both the Mentor and the Mentee. Mentee responsibilities include:

* be a current SAQA member.
* identify and set goals for the program and work with your mentor to develop action steps.
* clarify and revise goals as needed with feedback from your mentor.
* monitor and track progress toward those goals and keep your mentor updated on your progress.
* respect your mentor’s time by being punctual and prepared for each meeting, and by keeping commitments.
* develop a mutual agreement for meetings and preferred method of contact.
* ask questions so that a clear understanding is reached.
* be open to guidance, suggestions, and coaching. Accept feedback in a positive manner.
* be direct, honest, and upfront with your mentor. Identify any challenges you are facing in the program.
* keep your mentor informed of changes in needs, expectations, or goals.
* ask questions about your mentor’s career and experiences.
* provide regular ongoing feedback to the Mentorship Program coordinators about the program.
* report any concerns or complaints to Mentorship Program Coordinator.

**Roles and Responsibilities of a Mentor** SAQA Mentors come from diverse backgrounds and bring various skills from personal experience, education, workshops and other training. They are selected on the basis of their desire to pass on their knowledge to developing artists, and their record of excellence in professional artistic achievement. Mentor qualifications include:

* be a current SAQA member.
* be an established practicing artist.
* have significant technical knowledge pertaining to the discipline.
* have ability and willingness to commit to the mentoring process.
* have well-developed listening and interpersonal skills.
* be willing to share knowledge, connections and experiences.
  + have experience providing critical feedback in an individual and/or group setting.

**Discrimination is prohibited** All mentor/mentee participants shall refrain from harassment on the basis of race, creed, religion, sex, sexual or affectional orientation, color, national origin, ancestry, familial status, age, disability, marital status or status with regard to public assistance.

**Mentee Application Form**

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This questionnaire is a career assessment tool that will help us understand your current practice as an artist and will provide a basis for measuring your progress in the Mentorship Program. Please make a copy of this questionnaire and retain it for your records.

Complete the application and email it along with 4 to 6 images of your work (in jpeg format) to [mentorship@saqa.com](mailto:mentorship@saqa.com). If you have a website or blog with images of your current work, you do not have to include images with your application.

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Country:

Phone:

Website:

Blog:

Email:

What languages do you speak? (For match purposes.)

Juried Artist member? (y/n):

**Goal for Mentorship**

Please write a short paragraph about what you would like to achieve through the Mentorship Program. Expressing your specific goals is helpful in finding a good Mentor/Mentee match. You may wish to reread the second paragraph of the first page **Mentorship Goals** for ideas, keeping in mind that a Mentorship is generally for one year.

**Please rank the following groupings in order of importance to you at this time.**

(#1 is most important.)

**\_\_\_\_Artistic development (**Finding your voice, using strong design concepts, developing a practice, preparing work for submission, etc.)

**\_\_\_\_Writing** (Artist statement, resume, gallery/exhibition submission materials, grants, writing for print publication, etc.

**\_\_\_\_Business related** (Studio records, submission records, bookkeeping, marketing, etc.)

**\_\_\_\_Photos (**Photography, preparing images for submission, etc.)

**\_\_\_\_Internet presence** (Website, blog creation, Facebook, Instagram, etc.)

1. **Describe your current practice as an artist (media, coursework, working environment, process and time commitment). How much time each week do you spend working on your art?**
2. **What strengths or resources do you have that assist you as an artist?**
3. **What barriers do you perceive make it difficult for you to reach your artistic goals?**
4. **Do you have experience with working with a mentor? Please explain:**
5. **Additional comments:**