**Call for Artists: “Shelter”**

We invite visionary artists to explore **shelter** in all its forms—physical, emotional, and societal—for a juried group exhibition that asks:
What does it mean to be sheltered, unsafe, or in between? From the warm glow of a yurt’s lattice domes to the fragile layers of cardboard encampments, we seek works that illuminate the spectrum between housed and unhoused, from makeshift survival gear to triumphant symbols of community and success.

Our TAC exterior space becomes a gallery, depicting sites of refuge and reckoning, where art reveals how shelter shapes identity, security, and solidarity that resonate with an artist’s sensibility and inspire new conversations about the places we call home.

The interior of TAC is being used as an event space during this time so we will only consider work that can be installed on our exterior spaces. See depictions of the outside of our building by Googling ‘The Art Center Highland Park’ or visiting. TAC accepts no responsibility for conditions caused by natural occurrences, weather, storms, etc., or any circumstance that might occur with an outside installation.

**Theme Description**

Shelter is more than four walls—it is a **living dialogue** between body, place, and belonging. We challenge artists to consider:

* **Survival**: Tents, sleeping bags, lean-tos, impromptu shelters fashioned from found materials.
* **Sanctuary**: Deliberate architectures—yurts, cabins, custom-built havens that cradle dreams.
* **Precariousness**: Cardboard encampments, urban underpasses, the unseen margins of society.
* **Triumph**: Symbols of stability and success that emerge when community, art, and advocacy converge.

Artists might draw on personal narratives, social histories, environmental urgencies, or speculative futures. Whether literal or metaphorical, your work should evoke the **tension and tenderness** at the heart of shelter.

**Submission Guidelines**

Please submit the following materials as a single PDF document (max 10 MB) with file name format: *LastName\_ShelterShow\_Submission.pdf via Entrythingy. Submissions by any other means will be automatically denied. There is a $40 entry fee.*

1. **Artist Statement** (250–500 words)
Explain how your work engages with the theme of shelter: its physical structure, emotional resonance, or societal dimensions.
2. **Up to 5 Images** of proposed works
• JPEG or PNG files, 72 dpi, max 1920 × 1080 px each
• Label each image: LastName\_Title\_Year.jpg
3. **Brief Descriptions** for each image
• Title, medium, dimensions, year, and a 1–2-sentence contextual note.
4. **Installation Requirements** (if applicable)
5. **Contact Information**
Full name, mailing address, phone number, email, and website or portfolio link.

After submission, selected artists will receive a formal agreement and installation schedule. Materials that do not conform to specifications may not be reviewed.

Our curator for this exhibit is James M Lynch, Executive Director of TAC. He will prioritize artistic excellence, relevance to the theme, technical feasibility, and potential for audience engagement.

**Important Dates**

•     Application Opens: August 4

•     Submission Deadline: August 24

•     Jury Review: August 26

•     Notification of Acceptance: August 29

•     Artwork Delivery Window: October 6-9

•     Exhibition Opening: October 10

•     Exhibition Run: October 10 through November 8

•     Artwork Deinstallation: November 10

Please plan your production and installation timelines accordingly. The Art Center will not coordinate any return shipments to artists. Work may be dropped off or shipped to the Center, but must be deinstalled and picked up in-person. Early inquiries about site-specific or large-scale works are encouraged to ensure proper support.

**Contact Information**

For questions about submissions, installation, or general inquiries, please contact:

Gallery Manager: Caleb Smith

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