

Artist / Member Call for Submissions: 2026 HARCOURT HOUSE MEMBERS' EXHIBITION + ART SALE

EXHIBITION TITLE: *Rhapsody in Colour: 38th Annual Members' Exhibition + Art Sale*
120 Years of Abstract Art (1906 – 2026)

EXHIBITION DATES: July 4 to July 18, 2026

OPEN TO: All members in good standing of W.E.C.A.N. Society/Harcourt House Artist Run Centre, working in any visual arts media.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR JURYING PROCESS: Friday, May 22, 2026, by 11 pm

SUBMIT THROUGH JOTFORM: <https://form.jotform.com/250767484807267>

ARTWORK DROP-OFF: June 22-26, 2026, from 10 am to 5 pm, Harcourt Office

EXHIBITION STRIKE / ARTWORK PICK-UP: July 22-25, 2026, from 10 am to 5 pm, Harcourt Office

EXHIBITION CURATORS: Mohammad Hossein Abbasi, Jacek Malec, and Marija Nikolajev

Harcourt House is challenging artists to create or select submissions inspired by the exhibition title and the interrelation between visual art and music:

“Rhapsody in Colour”

The year **2026** marks the **120th anniversary of Abstract Art (1906–2026)**. To commemorate this milestone, the curatorial team at Harcourt House is presenting a series of ambitious exhibitions under the banner *Abstract Art @120*.

While Czech-born František Kupka and Russian-born Wassily Kandinsky are often cited as pioneers of abstract art, Swedish artist Hilma af Klint may rightfully claim that distinction. She completed her first abstract paintings in 1905–1906, predating both artists by approximately five years. Our special programming acknowledges her trailblazing contributions to the history of abstraction.

As visual art becomes more abstract, it increasingly resembles music - an art form built from the abstract elements of sound and divisions of time. Wassily Kandinsky, one of the earliest practitioners of abstract art, was also a musician and was deeply inspired by the possibility of marks and associative colours “resounding in the soul.” The Russian composer Alexander Scriabin sought to intensify the effect of musical notes by pairing them with corresponding colours. August Macke, a German avant-garde painter associated with the Munich-based *Der Blaue Reiter* group and a close colleague of Kandinsky, would sometimes have notes played on the piano to match the hues of his palette. As in music, inspiration and structure, feeling and calculation come together in painting. Kandinsky’s goal was to make the viewer’s soul vibrate - like a sounding board - through the “sounds of colour.” He articulated these ideas in his seminal 1913 treatise on the relationship between abstract art and music.

With this in mind, we invite artists to submit works that explore the relationship between visual art—particularly abstract art—and music. We are looking for works that resonate with the **“sound of colour.”**

Artists submitting **non-abstract work** are encouraged to reference the exhibition theme through the title of their piece, either by acknowledging a specific composer or by referencing a musical composition that inspired the work. Rather than literally “transcribing” music, artists are encouraged to draw upon musical concepts such as **tonality/atonality, harmony, dissonance, rhythm, serialism, or counterpoint** as frameworks for interpreting the critical vocabulary of colour within their work.

This call for submissions is open to new and current Harcourt House Artist Run Centre members in good standing (paid membership). Practicing artists who are not yet members but are interested in participating are encouraged to visit our website at <https://harcourthouse.ab.ca/become-a-member/>, stop by Harcourt House’s office, or call during regular business hours (Monday to Saturday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm) for membership information. Students and seniors are eligible for membership discounts.

All members are guaranteed to have **one work displayed in the exhibition**, whether or not it follows the suggested theme, provided the work adheres to the **Submission Guidelines** below.

The **Annual Harcourt House Members’ Exhibition** allows artists to exhibit and sell their work while also serving as a fundraiser supporting the **Harcourt House Exhibitions and Art Education Programs**. If artists choose to sell their work, **Harcourt House will receive a 30% commission**, which must be included in the sale price. Artists also have the option to **donate 100% of their sales proceeds**, in which case a **tax receipt for the full amount** will be provided.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

1. Submission Deadline: Friday, May 22, 2026, by 11 pm through JotForm:
<https://form.jotform.com/250767484807267>
2. Every artist may submit up to 3 JPEG images; each file should be named as such: number_lastname.jpg (**example: 3_Saville.jpg**) and no larger than 2MB. Poor-quality images may result in the artwork not being present in our online gallery.
Every artist who submits will have at least one and up to three works included in the exhibition.
3. Artwork must:
 - Have been produced within the past year
 - Remain in Harcourt’s Galleries as part of the exhibition for the duration of the show: **July 4 – July 18, 2026.**
 - 2D Artwork must be framed, ready to hang, and not over 36 x 36 inches in size. Wire/saw tooth hanger/keyhole hanger/metal or wood cleat hanger must be installed on the back of the artwork. If you have larger work you wish to display or have other display requirements, please contact **Mohammad Hossein Abbasi** at exhibit@harcourthouse.ab.ca or 780 426 4180.
 - 3D Artwork must be stable and safe on a gallery plinth or wall shelf.

4. Drop off selected work at the Harcourt House Artist Run Centre, 3rd floor, between **June 22 – 26, 2026**, from **10 am – 5 pm**.
5. It is the artist's responsibility to pick up their submissions after the completion of the exhibition between **July 22 – 25, 2026**, from **10 am – 5 pm**.
6. It will be the sole responsibility of the artist for the cost of packing and shipping of any artworks sold to out-of-town customers.
7. All reasonable care will be taken with submissions; however, Harcourt House Artist Run Centre, its staff, and volunteers shall not be held responsible for the loss of and/or damage to artworks.
8. The artist grants permission for Harcourt House Artist Run Centre to reproduce submitted artwork for the promotion and publicity of Harcourt House's exhibitions and programs. Copyright will be attributed to the artist.
9. Harcourt House Artist Run Centre will receive payment and retain a **30% commission** on all works sold during the exhibition. The remaining balance from each sale will be remitted to the artist after the exhibition closes. Artists may also choose to donate **100% of the proceeds** from the sale of their artwork to the **W.E.C.A.N. Society**. An official **tax receipt** for the full amount of the donation will be issued.