**Central Otago Emerging Artist Scholarship**

**Terms and Conditions**

**Overview**

The Central Otago Art Society is pleased to announce the establishment of an annual scholarship program designed to support and nurture emerging artistic talent in the visual arts within the Central Otago region. This initiative aims to provide financial assistance for professional development opportunities, while fostering connections between emerging artists and the broader Central Otago community.

**Scholarship Details**

* **Value**: $5,000 NZD
* **Eligibility**: Emerging artists in the visual arts, with connections to the Central Otago region
* **Purpose**: The scholarship funds are to be used exclusively for professional development within the arts, which may include, but is not limited to:
	+ Specialised tutoring or mentorship
	+ Workshops and courses
	+ Artist-grade materials and supplies
	+ Studio space rental (limited duration)
	+ Exhibition costs directly related to professional development

**Scholarship Recipient Obligations**

To ensure accountability and maximise community benefit, scholarship recipients will be required to:

1. **Attend Regular Progress Meetings**: Attend an Art Society committee meeting at 6 months (or as otherwise arranged), to discuss progress.
2. **Public Exhibition**: Participate in and exhibit work at the annual Blossom Festival exhibition.
3. **Provide an Accountability Report**: Present a comprehensive report to the committee after 12 months detailing:
	* How the scholarship funds were utilised
	* Skills and techniques developed
	* Impact on artistic practice
	* Future directions and goals

**Additional Obligations and Conditions**

* **Publicity Consent**: Recipients must be willing to participate in publicity activities, including use of their name, image, and work in promotional materials for the Central Otago Art Society and the scholarship program.
* **Withdrawal Clause**: The Central Otago Art Society reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship, either wholly or in part, if the recipient engages in conduct deemed inappropriate, or brings the scholarship or the Art Society into disrepute.

**Definition of "Emerging Artist"**

For the purposes of this scholarship, an "emerging artist" is defined as an individual who:

* Demonstrates serious commitment to their artistic practice
* Is in the early stages of their artistic career (typically within the first 1–5 years)
* Has not achieved commercial success or wide public recognition
* Shows potential for significant artistic development and contribution to the cultural landscape of Central Otago

**Selection Criteria**

Applications will be assessed by the Central Otago Art Society Committee according to the following criteria:

1. **Artistic Merit (50%)**
	* Quality and originality of submitted work
	* Evidence of distinctive voice or approach
	* Technical proficiency appropriate to career stage and medium
2. **Development Potential (40%)**
	* Clear articulation of development goals
	* Planned use of funds is realistic and appropriate
	* Evidence of commitment to ongoing artistic growth
3. **Application Quality (10%)**
	* Application is complete and comprehensive

**Application Process**

1. **Application Period**: Applications open between July 1 and August 22
2. **Required Materials**:
	* Complete application form
	* Portfolio of recent work (5–10 pieces)
	* Detailed plan for use of scholarship funds (max. 200 words)
	* One character reference
3. **Submission Method**: Email to centralotagoartsociety@gmail.com OR post to Central Otago Art Society, Alexandra Community House, 14-20 Centennial Avenue, Alexandra. \*\*Any questions about the scholarship email centralotagoartsociety@gmail.com or call Katie Robinson 021 445666
4. **Selection Timeline**:
	* Application deadline: 22 August
	* Initial review: 29 August
	* Finalist interviews: 1 – 7 September
	* Announcement of recipient: Opening night of Blossom Festival Exhibition

**Committee Discretion and Final Decision**

* The Central Otago Art Society Committee retains **sole and absolute discretion** over the selection and awarding of the scholarship, including the right not to award a scholarship in any given year if no applicants meet the required standard.
* All decisions made by the Committee are **final**, and **no correspondence or appeals** will be entered into regarding the outcome of the application process.
* The Central Otago Art Society reserves the right to withhold the scholarship entirely if, in its absolute discretion, no applications meet the criteria or standard expected.

**Contact Information**

For questions regarding the Central Otago Emerging Artist Scholarship, please contact:
**The Central Otago Art Society**
Email: centralotagoartsociety@gmail.com
Phone: 021 445 666

The Central Otago Art Society is committed to supporting the vibrant arts community of our region. This scholarship represents our investment in the future cultural landscape of Central Otago.