

Praise Shadows Art Gallery 2022 Mentorship Program

Thank you for your interest in the mentorship program at Praise Shadows Art Gallery. The gallery is a hybrid art space in Coolidge Corner, Brookline that features contemporary art exhibitions, as well as an art shop for books and lower-priced art objects. To learn more, please visit www.praiseshadows.com.

The inaugural Praise Shadows Mentorship Program took place in 2021 with two local high school mentees and one curatorial advisor, the Boston-based public art curator Leah Triplett Harrington. The program culminated in a group exhibition organized by the high school mentees, titled *Alchemized Dimensions*. We are proud to offer this program for a second year and seek one to two highly talented, organized, and motivated students from the Boston area.

The 2022 Curatorial Mentor is **Jen Mergel**, a nationally respected contemporary art curator and cultural leader dedicated to her hometown of Boston. Over the past two decades, she has organized over 50 exhibitions at venues including Harvard, the Addison Gallery, the ICA Boston, the MFA Boston, and for the Emerald Necklace Conservancy where she now serves as Director of Experience and Cultural Partnerships. Mergel graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University, received her M.A. from Bard's Center for Curatorial Studies, is a Fellow of the Center for Curatorial Leadership, and is currently a professional mentor for the Association of Art Museum Curators 2022 program.

5 facts about Jen:

- She grew up in Dorchester, where her first dedicated art classes were in ceramics at the Little House on East Cottage Street.
- Her first museum gallery memory was in the MFA Boston classical wing.
- In her senior year of undergrad, Jen switched her thesis from painting to sculpture, and is still in touch with many of her faculty advisors.
- Her first museum exhibition labels were written for Thelma Golden's presentation of Fred Hayes, Glenn Ligon, Gary Simmons and Kara Walker: *Point of Reference* at the Addison Gallery of American Art in 2000.
- Jen's favorite publication format is the artist interview, and she continues to lead artist interview workshops for Voices in Contemporary Art. (Stay tuned for a new interview in publication!)

Applications for this opportunity will be received on a rolling basis through February 28, 2022. Candidates invited for interviews will be notified on a rolling basis, and hiring will also be on a rolling basis. The program begins in early March.

Job Description

Nurturing diverse, young talent from Greater Boston is an essential component of our mission. Each year, Praise Shadows selects one to two outstanding teenage students to work at the gallery under the mentorship of the owner and a well-respected curator. The student(s), with the guidance of the curator, will organize the August group exhibition.

With the goal of developing an exhibition, the mentee and mentor will:

- Meet for one-hour sessions twice per month
- Develop a curatorial vision and criteria for an impactful group exhibition
- Research and develop a checklist, contact artists, and conduct studio visits as needed
- Develop and refine checklist
- Develop pitch deck and corresponding presentation
- Develop layout
- Coordinate artwork delivery/pick up
- Oversee installation
- Develop and execute any related programming

Term: Six months beginning in March 2022 and concluding at the end of the summer.

The applicant must be:

- A full-time resident of Boston or a city/town in the greater Boston area
- Between the ages of 16 and 19 at date of application
- Able to commute to the gallery for their shifts
- Legally permitted to work in the United States
- Able to work at least one full weekend day, and one weekday after school shift
- Committed to the full term of the mentorship from March through late August / early September 2022

Hours required: Eight to 10 hours per week, with potential for increased hours over the summer.

Compensation: \$13.50/hour

To Apply: In one email message to gallery@praiseshadows.com, please submit the following information:

- A one-minute video introducing yourself with a brief statement on why you would be the best candidate for this position. This video **must not** be sent as an attachment; please share with a Dropbox or Google drive link.
- Resume and brief cover letter.
- The subject line of the email must follow this format: [Your full name] for Mentorship Position.

Deadline is February 28, 2022 but applications are reviewed and accepted on a rolling basis. We encourage applicants to submit as soon as possible. Please do not call or email about your application status. Thank you for understanding.