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VISUAL STUDIES WORKSHOP ANNOUNCES 2027 PROJECT SPACE RESIDENCY OPEN APPLICATION PERIOD



Allie Tsubota, Project Space Resident, Summer 2025

Rochester, NY (April 3, 2026) **Visual Studies Workshop (VSW)**, the nationally-known nonprofit center dedicated to experimental and expansive approaches to photography, film and media arts, announces the open application period for its Project Space Residency Program. Applications are open now and due by May 18, 2026.

For more than 50 years VSW has provided time, space and resources for artists from all over the world to expand their practice and continue ongoing projects. VSW supports artists in any stage of their career who are working in photography, film, or media art by offering four-week Project Space Residencies at VSW in Rochester, NY. Project Space Residency alumni include Allie Tsubota, Crystal Z Campbell, Lili Chin, Ephraim Asili, Raymond Thompson, Jr., William D. Caballero, Anna Kipervaser, and Sarah Friedland among others.

“The Project Space Residency is a place for artists who are pushing the boundaries of their mediums,” comments Hernease Davis, VSW Assistant Curator. “Whether they are working

through ongoing projects or attempting brand new directions, Visual Studies Workshop's facilities and archive materials are a unique resource that have been a creative catalyst to artists for decades."

Project Space Residents receive 24/7 access to a private studio, digital printing equipment, and an analog darkroom. They also receive a stipend of \$1,000, plus \$250 for supplies, a \$500 travel budget for those traveling from outside the Rochester region, and accessible housing. All Residents receive the support of VSW's digital printing technician, program assistants, consultations with curators on staff, and research support in VSW's collections. Residencies are hosted at VSW's new, modern, accessible space.

The Project Space Residency also provides opportunities for artists to engage with the public through public lectures and Open Studios.

Applications are open to U.S. based and international artists working in photography, film or media art. Each year, a jury panel consisting of VSW staff, past resident artists, and guest curators review applications to select up to 16 artists for four-week terms. This year, the guest jurors will be Le'Andra LeSeur, Nando Alvarez-Perez and Aspen Mays (bios below.)

More information and [application instructions can be found at vsw.org](https://vsw.org). Application fee is \$10. Applications are due by May 18, 2026.

About Visual Studies Workshop: Visual Studies Workshop nurtures experimental and expansive approaches to photography and media arts and builds community among artists and the public through exhibitions, publications, and residencies. VSW was founded in 1969 in Rochester, NY by photographer, educator, and curator Nathan Lyons (1930–2016), and became one of the earliest independent, not-for-profit, artist-run spaces in the country. More than 50 years later, the organization's mission is reflected in its core programs: VSW Exhibitions and Salon events, Project Space Artist Residencies, and VSW Press. In support of VSW programs, the organization holds substantial photography and moving image research collections and an art library for artists, critics, and the general public to explore, research, and reuse. vsw.org

Guest Juror Bios

Nando Alvarez- Perez

Nando Alvarez-Perez investigates the individual's relationship to the vast territory of history. He received a BA in Film studies from CUNY Hunter in 2011 and a MFA from SFAI in 2014. His practice extends to his work as a founding director of The Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art, an art and education non profit that models how culture can sustain communities through focused, practical engagements with contemporary art, and as editor-in-chief of Cornelia, a visual art review published three times a year for the Western New York and Southern Ontario region. Alvarez-Perez has exhibited at Rivalry Projects, Buffalo, NY, Lydian Stater Gallery, NY, NY, Buffalo Central Terminal, Buffalo, NY, Interface Gallery, Oakland, CA, Silver Eye Center for Photography, Pittsburgh, PA, Untitled Art Fair, San Francisco, CA, and Material Art Fair, CDMX, among many others.

Le'Andra LeSeur

Le'Andra LeSeur is an interdisciplinary artist whose practice spans video, installation, photography, and performance. Her work is rooted in examining conditions shaped by racial violence and systemic inequities. Through the presence of her body and voice, LeSeur crafts immersive experiences that disrupt perceptions and resist imposed narratives, encouraging audiences to engage in deep reflection and recognition around themes of identity, collective memory, and the duality of grief.

LeSeur is the recipient of notable honors, including the Tulsa Artist Fellowship (2024), the NJ Council of the Arts Fellowship (2022), the Leslie-Lohman Museum Artist Fellowship (2019), and the Juried Grand Prize at ArtPrize 10 (2018). Her work has been exhibited at Pioneer Works (NY), MFA Boston, The Shed (NY), Atlanta Contemporary, A.I.R. Gallery (NY), and others. Her work is in the permanent collection of The Whitney Museum of American Art.

Aspen Mays

Aspen Mays is an artist whose work investigates photography's relationship to science, chance, and material transformation. Mays's solo exhibitions include *Ten Gallon Sunflower (2016)* and *California Dreaming (2018)* at *Higher Pictures* in New York and *Toward Infinite Limits* at the San Jose State Museum of Art in California in 2019; her work was presented at Paris Photo in 2025 and is featured on the cover of the Winter 2025 issue of *Aperture Magazine*. Mays participated in the inaugural cohort of Unseen California, a research initiative which invites artists to engage with the University of California Natural Reserve System. She curated *Field Notes from Unseen California* at the Penumbra Foundation in New York in 2023. Mays received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a BA in Anthropology and Spanish from The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She is Associate Professor of Art and Chair of Photography at California College of the Arts in San Francisco. Mays lives and works in California and London.

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