

Exquisite Pressure 2022 Guidelines

About the Program

Description

Exquisite Pressure (ExP) is a new program from What Lab, providing creation support for new performance works. We want to give artists a platform to try something new— to celebrate vulnerability in support of an idea that's not yet fully formed, but still worthy of exploration.

ExP is What Lab's next path to foster and share newness in a creative process. More tangibly, ExP will provide performance artists a creative residency, including free studio access and financial support. This residency will culminate in public showings of new work with opportunities for community support, feedback, and documentation. This round of ExP is hosted and curated by local theatre collective Lo-Fi Spectacle Club (Hannah Meyers and Marina Buston), who will provide selected artists facilitated workshopping opportunities and other creative support.

About Lo-Fi Spectacle Club

From Hannah and Marina: "Exquisite Pressure speaks to Lo-fi Spectacle Club's infatuation with mess, the unexpected, and experimentation. As queer women, we embrace the word queer for all of its meanings; as an adjective, it encompasses who we are and how we love, as a verb it helps define how we work and how we think about form and content subversively. We are guided by the question: How can we queer the mundane, and how can we reveal what is inherently queer about the mundane? We will use this question as a curatorial frame throughout our involvement in this project. As multidisciplinary creators and directors trained in devised theatre, we understand the gift of parameters (eg. time, material, form, space) as tools of exquisite pressure."

Submission Process

Who can apply

Artists working with any and all modes of performance are encouraged to apply. Collectives and collaborative groups are also eagerly encouraged to apply, though please note the selected artist stipend will remain the same regardless of group size.

Submission and deadline

Submit the application form via whatlab.ca/apply-exquisite-pressure-2022/ by July 17th, 2022 at 11:59pm.

Selection

Hosting artists will review all application materials and chose three artists based on merit, artistic explorations, and a commitment to fully participate in the project. Accepted artists will be notified by e-mail no later than July 31st, 2022.

Support

Selected artists will receive

- 25 hours of studio space at the What Lab studio for creative exploration and research
- Creative support from ExP hosts Lo-Fi Spectacle club
- A small design budget to support the creation of the work
- A lighting 101 session as part of the creation process, with What Lab Lighting Technician Chengyan Boon
- A copy of all photo and/or video documentation, for personal use
- An artist stipend of \$750

Important Dates/Timeline

Aug-Oct 2022 – Artist access to free studio time

These 25 hours can be spread out over the three months, or in a more concentrated burst of time. Schedule will be created around artist's needs, depending on What Lab studio availability.

Week of Oct 10-16th 2022 – Private workshopping session

Exact date and time TBD. The cohort of selected artists will have an opportunity to gather for a closed group works-in-progress feedback session, facilitated by ExP host, Lo-Fi Spectacle Club.

Oct 28 & 29th – Public showing

****Artists must be available for these dates**** Public showing of work, to take place at What Lab. Includes Q+A feedback session led by Lo-Fi Spectacle.

Any questions about the Physical/Material or the application process can go to Jarin at studio@whatlab.ca.

