

# Exquisite Pressure II 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 group New(to)Town collective with Avyen von Waldenburg leading the process. New(to)Town collective will provide selected artists facilitated workshopping opportunities and other creative support.

– Notes from New(to)Town Collective –

From Avyen von Waldenburg: "Being a clown and physical theatre practitioner, Exquisite Pressure is in itself my fascination. The exquisiteness of being in a container that creates a pressure. Like a kettle! Characters are a container that creates a pressure, a pressure of Expression. What makes a character and how to inspire in it a heartbeat? How do we facilitate a clear transmission so that the Noble Partner (Audience) may feel seen and heard through any story? How can we connect with the audience and play with them even when there is a 4<sup>th</sup> wall? Directors, Actors, Characters, Audience, Props, Lights, Sound, Space, Impulses, Shapes, Time, Presence, and the Unseen are all in a symbiotic relationship as Nothing Never Happens. I have a passionate interest on shifting the vertical hierarchy to a horizontal hierarchy where every element has potential for equal value. When everything is equal then the stage becomes alive. When things are alive then we have relationships to listen to. Guided by the curative questions of "What is intention?", "How do we and what do we listen to?" and "Where is the Delight, the spark that everyone can feel?". Much curation will be using qualities akin to building and tending a fire, whereas the process is the heartbeat of any product."

## 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-ii/](https://whatlab.ca/apply-exquisite-pressure-ii/) by November 13th, 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 around late November 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 New(to)Town collective
- 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 \$500

### Important Dates/Timeline

Dec-Feb 2023 – 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 Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 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 showing, facilitated by ExP host, New(to)Town collective.

Feb 23-25, 2023 – Public showing

**\*\*Artists must be available for these dates\*\*** Public showing of work, to take place at What Lab. Includes feedback session led by New(to)Town.

Any questions about Exquisite Pressure or the application process can go to Jarin at [studio@whatlab.ca](mailto:studio@whatlab.ca).

