

Exquisite Pressure x Blind Tiger Comedy

About the Program

Description

Exquisite Pressure (ExP) at What Lab provides 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 effort to foster community and honour newness in a creative process. More tangibly, ExP provides performance artists a creative residency, with free studio access and financial support. This residency will culminate in public showings of new work with opportunities for support, feedback, and documentation. This round of ExP is hosted and curated by [Blind Tiger Comedy](#). They will curate this round of ExP and provide selected artists with facilitated workshopping opportunities and other creative support.

Any questions about Exquisite Pressure or the application process can go to Jarin at jarin@whatlab.ca.

Curatorial Note from Blind Tiger Comedy

Blind Tiger Comedy is seeking to work with professional artists who have a curiosity for comedy and are at any stage of their career journey, from emerging to veteran artists. For this Exquisite Pressure, we hope to connect with artists ready to experiment with comedy. This involves either incorporating comedy into unexpected forms where it's not always the focus (dance, music, theater, mixed media, etc.) or using existing comedy structures (sketch, stand up, and improv) to test the boundaries of what's possible.

Submission Process

Who can apply

Artists, collectives, and collaborative groups working with any and all modes of performance are encouraged to apply. Please note the artist stipend will remain the same regardless of group size.

Support

Selected artists will receive

- 30 hours of studio space at the What Lab studio for creative exploration and research
- Creative support from the ExP hosts
- A copy of all photo and/or video documentation, for personal use
- An artist stipend of \$1,000 from What Lab

Submission and deadline

Submit the application form via whatlab.ca/apply-exp-x-blind-tiger-comedy by August 28, 2026 at 11:59pm.

Selection

Blind Tiger Comedy will review all application materials and choose three artists. Accepted artists will be notified by e-mail by late September 2026.

*Please note – A lead artist or collective can be selected for a maximum of two Exquisite Pressure iterations. Clearly, we love you, but we also want to share the wealth.

Important Dates/Timeline

Sept-Oct 2026 – Selected Artists build their creation residency timeline

Artists will schedule their 30-hour residency period, which will happen between January and April 2027. What Lab will assist artists in this process.

Jan 2027-April 2027 – Residency Period

Artists have access to studio. Schedule can be altered during the residency period, subject to What Lab studio availability.

Early April 2027 – Private workshopping session

Exact date and time TBD, tentatively the week of April 5th. The cohort of selected artists will gather for a closed group works-in-progress showing, facilitated by Blind Tiger Comedy. Artist must be present for this showing.

April 22, 2027 – Tech/dress rehearsal

****Artists must be available for this date**** Each artist receives 2-3 hours of tech rehearsal with a What Lab Stage Manager.

Apr 23-24, 2027 – Public showing

****Artists must be available for these dates**** Public showing of work, to take place at What Lab. Includes feedback session led by Blind Tiger Comedy.

What Lab Studio Accessibility Details

The venue is located on the second floor up one flight of stairs, but there is a ground level accessible entrance through the back of the building, from the alley. There is one single-occupancy, gender-

inclusive washroom. The washroom is not big enough for style wheelchairs to completely turn around in while the door is open.

Seating is typically informal, and will include some combination of chairs, floor seating, couches, and cushions. We are a trans-inclusive space. There is no dedicated parking, only street parking.