

Definitions: professional artist, established artist, mid-career artist, emerging artist

Professional Artist in Canada

In Visual Arts, The Canada Council defines a professional artist as someone who:

- has specialized training in the field, consistent with the standards of their practice; and,
- is recognized by other artists working in the same tradition as an artist of superior achievement or potential.

Selling or making a living from artistic work does not contribute to this definition of a professional artist.

Established Artist

An artist who is at a mature stage in his/her/their career and who has created an extensive body of independent work. An established artist has reached an advanced level of achievement by sustaining a **nationally or internationally recognized contribution to the discipline, regularly exhibiting in national galleries in their own and other countries.**

Mid-Career Artist

An artist who has created an independent body of work over a number of years and who has received regional or national recognition through publication or public presentation of his or her work. A Mid-Career Artist has had a significant number of solo exhibitions at significant galleries and museums, located nationally or internationally, rather than strictly locally.

Emerging Artist

An emerging artist is someone who's in the early stage of their career. He/she/they has some specialized training, experience or accomplishment in his or her field (not necessarily gained in an academic institution) and who has created a modest body of work. An emerging artist will have a modest exhibition history, consisting of exhibition in informal spaces, non-curated shows and a few group exhibitions, and is committed to the ongoing development of their skills and artistic practice.