

New Perspectives through Creative Inquiry

Submission Guidelines, updated November 18, 2022

Overview

The Center for Creative Inquiry is calling in artists and writers to share diverse expressions of curiosity and inquiry, connecting to themes that can awaken the knowledge held in our hearts.

Writers, artists and collectives working in any discipline suitable for online publication are encouraged to [submit their work](#).

Our platform: *New Perspectives through Creative Inquiry*

The goal of this publication is to share the journeys of our authors and creators as they explore experience. We present writings, reflections, and artistic pieces to inspire new ideas, new explorations, and new questions, sparking opportunities to tap into the richness and multidimensionality of experience.

Every work presented is a “work in progress” because creative inquiry never settles on a final answer. We embrace the unfolding of insight without being bound by its conclusions. This is a playground, where creators and viewers can enjoy knowledge, celebrate its appearance, and move with the flow: what is my experience as I engage this piece? Is it changing? How do I know?

Themes

A new theme is activated twice per year. We encourage each theme to serve as an invitation to create something new. The purpose of the theme is to give the published collection a deeper coherence and meaning, beyond simply juxtaposing beautiful pieces of work. It also connects the collection to the teachings about time, space, and knowledge upon which CCI is centered. Each contribution is like the facet of a jewel, reflecting its light in a different way. Happily, this metaphor leaves things very open as to how you express the theme.

Current Theme

The theme for the second cycle is “Bubbles Appearing”:

Water can appear as clouds or ocean, as ice or rain, or as bubbles in a mountain stream.

This collection will trace the arising of bubbles in a rushing stream of water. How do the bubbles arise? Where do they come from and where do they go?

In this inquiry, we are not focusing on the bubble itself, but rather the interplay that gives rise to its appearance. The constantly moving stream within which the bubbles form is available for inquiry, as well as the expansion and explosion of space as the bubble expands and bursts over time.

We are breaking away from our ordinary focus on the content of experience – a bubble as a concept, frozen in time and locked into space. Allow your exploration to liberate the bubble from its labeling and simply let the inquiry flow like water taking a momentary shape.

This theme is inspired by Tarthang Tulku, *Dynamics of Time & Space*, Chapter 28 “Silent Appearing”

Past Themes

Please view our two past collections, [Reflections of the Moon](#) and [Reality Painting](#).

Prizes

Upon the close of each cycle, the submissions will be evaluated, and finalists will be selected for publication. In addition, the top submission in each category will be awarded a small prize of \$50.

Categories include: poetry and flash fiction, essays, audio (including music and/or spoken word files that do not feature original music), videos, and visual art (including photography, paintings, digital artwork/animated images). Please note that CCI may select zero finalists for some categories, while other categories may have multiple finalists, but only the top ranked finalist in each category will be awarded a cash prize.

Submitted works should be unpublished except on a personal blog or website. Artists maintain all rights to their works and those offered publication may display their pieces in galleries, festivals or shows.

Submitted works should be the wholly original work of the submitting artist/author. **Video submissions should not contain copyrighted material and/or music that does not belong to you unless it resides in the public domain.**

Evaluation Criteria

- Does this creative project have a strong tie with the expressed theme?
- Does the project align well with the TSK Vision or a nondual vision of reality?
- Does the project challenge prevailing assumptions we make about the way we experience the world? What type of real-world impact might it make?
- How well does the artist/collective communicate their vision and concept? Do they work TSK, Full Presence Mindfulness, or other forms of contemplative practice or inquiry into their process and/or their finished pieces?
- How thought-provoking, educational, and/or sensorily appealing is this project?
- How does this creative project fit with others that may appear in the collection?
- Does the artist/collective represent an underrepresented community (in terms of the particular collection, the broader scope of everything CCI has published, and society as a whole)?

Size and Format

Ideally there are no imposed limits on minimum or maximum length/size for any contribution. That said, some loose suggestions may serve the presentation:

- *Poetry*: All sizes and forms welcome. If your poem features complicated spacing, please submit it as a PDF.
- *Prose*: For prose offerings we recommend up to 2,000 words maximum.
- *Visual Art*: Visual art dimensions are, of course, up to the artist. Visual work is welcome in digital form or converted to it from a more traditional medium via scanner or other tools. The magazine will attempt very faithful color reproduction of visual work that is rendered in color. For work that is rendered in black-and-white, it will be reproduced that way. In some cases, the curator may spread visual pieces across more than one page, while in other cases the curator may fit the visual piece into a welcoming smaller space for it.
- *Sculpture and other 3D formats*: sculpture and other 3D formats are welcome as responses to the theme of the current issue; items of this sort can be exhibited as photos of the original.
- *Audio and Video*: Files exceeding 20 MB should be shared via Google Drive or Dropbox. Sharing a link to a private or unlisted YouTube or Vimeo upload is also acceptable for the initial submission; however, we will need to upload it on to our own platforms if it is selected for publication. For files over 5 GB, please contact us ahead of time. Recommended length of audio and video is under 10 minutes, but there is no cap on length.
- *Other*: Perhaps you don't see your format choice in this list of size instructions? Don't let that stop you. Just do your thing and these guidelines will catch up.

Contributors may submit one or more pieces per cycle in one or more formats. If it suits you to produce only one piece, produce that one piece. If you want to contribute more pieces, please do. The idea here is for you to enjoy the theme and to enjoy being creative in as many ways as you wish.

Fees

There is no submission fee.

Deadline

The submission deadline for this cycle is: February 28, 2023. Please [submit your contribution\(s\)](#) any time before and up to the deadline. Finalists will be announced 4-6 weeks after the deadline. The precise timing will depend upon the number of submissions.

Recommendations

The creative process is different for all people and different for each genre. There are, however, a few useful things to consider about the creative process in general. We recommend

- 1) taking time to reflect on the theme in the background of your mind, letting yourself meditate actively or passively on the theme of the contest for a little bit as a prelude to deep immersion in creative expression about it;
- 2) reserve some time after creating something for it to sit idly as a completed draft or drawing for a day or two so you and it can reacquaint afterwards in an emotionally neutral and productive manner, should you discover an interest in adjusting it in some way;
- 3) respect what you make, including things you think you do not like, because that treatment honors your creativity overall. In fact, it is often the parts we like least and the things we judge as mistakes that open rich areas of new self-expression, especially if we lean into them willingly with curiosity. With that treatment, they often delight us on deep levels afterwards.

Questions & Assistance

From the time you read these guidelines to the moment you [submit a contribution](#), do feel free to contact us with any questions, or general needs/concerns pertaining to your creative process. We aspire to nourish, boost, and encourage the creative process for our contributors in whatever ways we can.