CALL FOR ARTISTS

HIGH WATER

The Great Flood of 1927: A Centennial Exhibition

Presented by the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council

The Gallery at 118 Cotton | Monroe, Louisiana

Submission Deadline: Friday, December 4, 2026, at 11:59 PM CST

No Submission Fee

About the Exhibition

In 1927, the Mississippi River experienced one of the most devastating floods in American history. The disaster displaced hundreds of thousands of people, transformed communities, and reshaped the physical and cultural landscape of the Mississippi Delta.

One hundred years later, its legacy remains part of our region's history.

In recognition of the centennial of the Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927, the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council invites artists from Louisiana and throughout the Mississippi Delta region to submit work for *HIGH WATER*, a group exhibition exploring the relationship between water, land, people, and place.

Presented in connection with the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation's *Great Flood Project*, the exhibition will bring together artistic perspectives on the history and continuing influence of water across the region.

Exhibition Theme

While the exhibition commemorates the historic flood of 1927, artists are encouraged to interpret its broader themes through historical, contemporary, personal, or conceptual perspectives.

Submitted artwork may explore:

- The Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927 and its lasting legacy
- Rivers, waterways, flooding, and the natural landscape
- The cultural and environmental identity of the Mississippi Delta
- Family histories, community memories, and stories passed down through generations

- Displacement, loss, recovery, and resilience
- Humanity's relationship with water, both past and present
- Environmental change and contemporary flooding

Artwork is not required to depict the 1927 flood or reference a specific historical event. Traditional, contemporary, abstract, and conceptual interpretations are welcome.

The exhibition seeks to bring together a range of artistic perspectives reflecting the significance of water in shaping our region's history, environment, communities, and cultural identity.

Artist Eligibility

This call is open to visual artists ages 18 and older residing anywhere in Louisiana or within the Mississippi River Valley in Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, and Illinois.

For applicants outside Louisiana, eligibility is limited to communities within the Mississippi River watershed, including areas along the river and its tributaries.

Artists are not required to reside in an area directly impacted by the Great Flood of 1927 or have a personal or historical connection to the event. However, submitted artwork must demonstrate a meaningful relationship to the exhibition's themes.

Emerging, mid-career, and established artists are encouraged to apply.

There is no fee to apply or participate in this exhibition.

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Accepted Media & Artwork Requirements
Original artwork in the following media will be considered:

- Painting and drawing
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Fiber and textile arts

- Collage and mixed media
- Other physical two-dimensional and three-dimensional visual artwork

Digital artwork requiring electronic display, video art, projection-based installations, and other technology-dependent installations will not be accepted.

All artwork must be fully completed at the time of application. Proposals for new artwork, conceptual submissions, and works in progress will not be considered.

Both recently completed and older works are eligible.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy
Artwork created wholly or partially using generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools is not eligible for this exhibition.

All submitted artwork must be the original creative work of the submitting artist. AI-generated or AI-assisted imagery, including imagery subsequently altered, painted over, or incorporated into mixed-media work, will not be accepted.

The Northeast Louisiana Arts Council reserves the right to disqualify submissions that do not comply with this policy.

Number of Submissions
Artists may submit a maximum of three (3) original, completed artworks for consideration.

Each work will be evaluated individually. The selection committee may accept one, multiple, or none of the works submitted by an individual artist.

Artwork Size & Display Requirements
There are no predetermined size restrictions. However, artists must provide accurate dimensions for each submitted work, including framing, bases, or other display components where applicable.

The Northeast Louisiana Arts Council reserves the right to decline artwork that cannot be safely or appropriately accommodated due to size, weight, installation requirements, or available gallery space.

All selected artwork must arrive complete and ready for installation.

Two-dimensional works must be appropriately framed or otherwise equipped for secure hanging. Three-dimensional works must be stable and suitable for gallery display.

Submission Requirements
Artists must complete the online application and provide the following:

1. Artist Information

- Full name
- Email address
- Phone number
- City and state of residence
- Website, portfolio, or Culturalyst profile (if applicable)

2. Artist Biography

A brief artist biography of no more than 100 words describing the artist's background and creative practice.

3. Artist Statement

One statement of no more than 150 words explaining how the submitted artwork relates to the exhibition's themes.

Artists may discuss their inspiration, creative approach, personal experiences, historical connections, or interpretation of water, flooding, and the Mississippi Delta landscape.

Only one statement is required per application, regardless of the number of works submitted.

4. Artwork Information

For each submitted work, artists must provide:

- Artwork title
- Year completed
- Medium/materials
- Height, width, and depth, as applicable
- Weight, if applicable
- Sale price or designation as not for sale (NFS)

5. Artwork Images

Artists must upload one clear, high-quality photograph of each submitted artwork, with the option to provide one additional detail image per piece.

- Maximum of three artworks per artist
- Maximum of two images per artwork
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, or PNG

Images must accurately represent the actual completed artwork, including its colors, composition, and condition.

Submitted images may be used for exhibition-related publicity and promotional materials, with appropriate artist credit.

Incomplete applications may not be considered.

Artwork Selection
Submitted artwork will be reviewed through a collaborative selection process involving representatives of the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council's Gallery Committee and the Great Flood Project.

Selections will be based on:

- Artistic merit and quality
- Interpretation of the exhibition's themes
- Overall exhibition cohesion
- Available gallery space and installation requirements

The Northeast Louisiana Arts Council will coordinate final selections, artist notifications, and exhibition installation.

Submission does not guarantee acceptance.

Selected artists will be notified by Monday, December 14, 2026.

Artwork Sales & Gallery Commission
Artwork may be offered for sale or designated as not for sale (NFS).

For artwork sold through the exhibition, the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council retains its standard 30% gallery commission. The remaining 70% of the sale price is paid to the artist.

Artists are responsible for establishing their own sale prices, which must be provided at the time of application.

Artwork designated as not for sale is equally eligible for consideration.

Artwork Delivery, Shipping & Liability

Firm Artwork Delivery Deadline: Thursday, January 7, 2027
All selected artwork must be received by the Northeast Louisiana Arts Council no later than Thursday, January 7, 2027.

In-Person Delivery
Artists delivering artwork in person must schedule a drop-off appointment with the Arts Council office in advance.

Unscheduled drop-offs will not be accepted.

The Arts Council office is closed on Fridays.

Shipping
Artists may ship accepted artwork to The Gallery at 118 Cotton at their own expense.

Shipped artwork must arrive no later than January 7, 2027.

Artists are responsible for appropriate packaging, shipping arrangements, insurance, and all return shipping costs. Artists shipping artwork must provide any necessary prepaid return shipping labels and packaging.

Shipping instructions will be provided to selected artists.

Liability
The Northeast Louisiana Arts Council does not assume liability for loss, theft, or damage to artwork during shipping, handling, storage, installation, exhibition, deinstallation, or return.

Artists are encouraged to obtain their own insurance coverage.

Selected artists must sign the Arts Council's standard exhibition agreement before artwork delivery.

Exhibition & Opening Reception

HIGH WATER: The Great Flood of 1927 — A Centennial Exhibition

Location: The Gallery at 118 Cotton, Monroe, Louisiana

Exhibition Dates: February 4 – March 4, 2027

Opening Reception: Thursday, February 4, 2027 | 5–9 PM

The Northeast Louisiana Arts Council will host an opening reception on Thursday, February 4, from 5–9 PM, in conjunction with the Monroe–West Monroe Downtown Gallery Crawl.

The reception is free and open to the public. Participating artists are encouraged to attend.

Deinstallation & Artwork Pickup
The exhibition will close Thursday, March 4, 2027.

Artwork will be deinstalled during the week of March 8–11, 2027.

Artists are responsible for arranging artwork pickup by appointment with the Arts Council office. Artists who ship artwork are responsible for arranging and paying for return shipping.

Specific pickup and return shipping instructions will be communicated to participating artists before the exhibition closes.

Important Dates

October 19, 2026 — Artist Call Opens

December 4, 2026 — Submission Deadline, 11:59 PM CST

December 7–10, 2026 — Selection Committee Review

December 14, 2026 — Artist Notifications

January 7, 2027 — Firm Artwork Delivery Deadline

January 11–15, 2027 — Gallery Installation

February 4, 2027 — Opening Reception, 5–9 PM

March 4, 2027 — Exhibition Closes

March 8–11, 2027 — Deinstallation

About the Great Flood Project
HIGH WATER is being developed in connection with *The Great Flood Project*, an initiative of

the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927.

Through historic preservation, community storytelling, exhibitions, educational programming, and public events, the Great Flood Project works to document and share the disaster's lasting impact across the Mississippi Delta and the communities shaped by it.

Learn more about the centennial initiative at **https://1927flood.lthp.org**.

Submit Your Artwork

Applications are free and must be received by Friday, December 4, 2026, at 11:59 PM CST.

High Water Artist Application : Arts Community : Northeast Louisiana Arts Council

For questions regarding the exhibition or submission requirements, contact:

Northeast Louisiana Arts Council
Email: abigail@nelaarts.org
Website: www.nelaarts.org

The Northeast Louisiana Arts Council reserves the right to make final curatorial and installation decisions. All selected artists must comply with the Arts Council's standard exhibition agreement and gallery policies.