



2024-2025 Tournesol Awardee, Nimah Gobir. Photo by Tom Ide.

Program Details: Tournesol Award

Since 2003, the Tournesol Award has recognized one local painter each year, supporting them in taking the first major steps toward establishing a career in the Bay Area. The Award gives financial and professional support to a dedicated painter in the critical early years of artistic development.

Designed to support the artist over a full year, the Tournesol Award provides a generous stipend, private studio, and access to Headlands' creative community. The award year culminates in a funded final project of the artist's choice, typically in the form of an exhibition or a publication.

The 2025-26 Tournesol Award year is July 1, 2025 – June 26, 2026. The application period runs from March 24 to May 2, 2025. Visit headlands.org/program/tournesol-award for details.

Program Goals

- To support promising Bay Area-based painters in establishing a professional career in the region.
- To ensure that the Bay Area is a vibrant center for emerging artists by providing local opportunities for growth and success.
- To create a thriving cultural center for Bay Area artists to participate in a national and international artist community.



Program Details

- Award Period: July 1, 2025–June 26, 2026
- Fully sponsored, year-long residency with a \$10,000 stipend
- Final project, typically in the form of an exhibition or a publication, at the conclusion of the 12-month period
- 750-sq.-foot studio
- Chef-prepared meals
- Facilities access: Basic woodshop; audio/video equipment; artists' library with computer
- Wi-Fi in studio and main buildings
- Engagement with Headlands Artist community
- Participation in "Show & Tell" nights
- Participation in seasonal Open Houses
- Access to Headlands Public Events
- Become part of Headlands Alumni Network

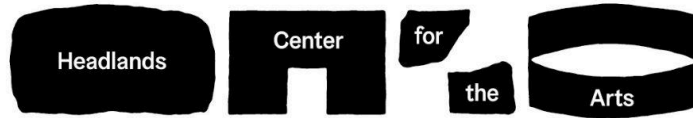
Eligibility

- Artist works primarily with paint on a two-dimensional surface.
- Artist's primary residence must be in the Bay Area. "Bay Area" is defined as Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma counties.
- Artist is in early stages of their career and can show dedication to their practice. Indications of early career stage AND dedication include:
- Graduation from an accredited MFA or BFA program within the past ten years (2016-2025), or equivalent recent non-academic experience and dedication within that ten year period.
- Participation in significant group and/or solo exhibitions.
- Has NOT had a retrospective showing with a significant institution or gallery.
- Alumni of Headlands' Artists Programs are eligible to apply, with the exception of past recipients of Chamberlain, Chiaro, or Tournesol Awards. Former Artists in Residence (AIR) may apply three years after their previous residency.
- Candidates may not be enrolled in a degree granting program during the term of the award.
- Artists may not apply for both the Tournesol and Chiaro Awards.

Selection Criteria

- Merit of past work.
- Demonstrated commitment to pursuing excellence and innovation in the discipline of painting.
- Readiness to engage with, and benefit, from the experience at Headlands (see program goals).
- Economic need will also be considered, secondary to an emphasis on talent and commitment to painting.

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Selection Process

- Headlands' staff reviews to ensure application completion and eligibility.
- Submissions reviewed by a jury of knowledgeable and esteemed artists and arts professionals (particularly those with strong understanding of painting).
- The jury evaluates each artist's materials and selects finalists.
- Finalists are asked to present their work in a 20-minute Zoom interview to determine the final award selection.

Application Materials

- A full application includes the following:
- Resume or curriculum vitae.
- Letter of interest, outlining your specific interest in working at Headlands and how program participation will affect your practice.
- List of three references and email addresses; please note, we do not want letters of reference
- Documentation of recent work; submit up to 15 images.
- An image list with title, date, size, media, and, where applicable, conceptual intent.

Past Awardees

2003 Clare E. Rojas	2011 Neil LeDoux	2019 Troy Chew
2004 Chris Ballantyne	2012 Brett Goodroad	2020 Warith Taha
2005 Yoon Lee	2013 Teresa Baker	2021 Tom Colcord
2006 Leslie Shows	2014 Cate White	2022 Gregory Rick
2007 Ana Teresa Fernandez	2015 Elizabeth Bowler	2023 Rose D'Amato
2008 Paul Wackers	2016 Fox Hysen	2024 Nimah Gobir
2009 Shaun O'Dell	2017 Lucas deGiulio	
2010 Jack Leamy	2018 Chasen Wolcott	

For questions about this program, contact Holly Blake, Senior Residency Manager, at hblake@headlands.org.