



FIBRE BY THE LOCKS

Merrickville, ON

CALL – EMERGING ARTISTS

Fibre by the Locks, in Merrickville-Wolford, Ontario, is a vibrant celebration of textile arts that transforms historic Merrickville into a hub of creative energy. The one-day event, to be held Sunday, October 18, 2026 from 10 am to 4:00 pm at The Pews, 100 St. Lawrence St., Merrickville, Ontario centers around a curated vendor market featuring high-quality yarns, raw fibres, and finished textile and fibre goods, providing a vital platform for both small, local businesses and artisans. Past contributors have included makers and suppliers related to felting, home décor, rug hooking, weaving, crocheting, knitting, embroider, sewing, fashion and quilting. Visitors can immerse themselves in the craft through live demonstrations by local textile makers, who will be sharing traditional techniques such as spinning, weaving, and felting, ensuring that the rich heritage of the Rideau Valley remains a living, breathing part of our community.

A highlight of programming in 2026 is a special showcase of 6 young, emerging artists, offering a spotlight to new talent and fresh perspectives within the fibre community.

Call for Emerging Artists

Fibre By The Locks invite emerging fibre artists from Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec to participate in the curated Emerging Artists Exhibition to be held Sunday, October 18, 2026 from 10 am – 4:00 pm at The Pews, 100 St. Lawrence St., Merrickville, Ontario.

Fibre by the Locks – Call for Emerging Artists
 Entries Close: July 31, 2026
 Send Submissions to: fibrebythelocks@gmail.com

This year's theme is "Celebrating Abundance" in recognition of the social and natural riches of Merrickville, "The Jewel of the Rideau." Entrants are encouraged to consider what abundance means to them.

Fibre By The Locks is committed to equal opportunity for all applicants. We encourage applications from members of visible and invisible minority groups, women, Indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, and persons across the spectrums of sexual orientation and gender identities. If there are ways we can remove barriers to the application process, please let us know and we will work with you to meet your needs.



Submission Requirements

All entries must be submitted by email with subject line EMERGING ARTISTS to fibrebythelocks@gmail.com and include all of the Submission Requirements. Entries close Friday, July 31 at 12:00 noon.

Each entry must be accompanied with a biography in the 3rd person, max 75 words or 525 characters and an artist statement in the 1st person, max 100 words or 700 characters. The statement should share the story behind your work and not include any identifying information about yourself to keep each entrant anonymous for the curatorial process.

Each entry requires two high-resolution .jpeg (jpg) images. The resolution should be at least 2,500 pixels on the shortest side. This should result in a file size between 2-5 MB.

Full view: the entire work as it will be presented in the exhibition on a contrasting background (preferably white) with background showing on all sides.

Detail view should be a close up of an area of special interest. Two additional photos are allowed for 3D artwork to view the back and/or top of the work(s) or if additional images are necessary to give the curatorial panel an understanding of the piece.

The full view image file must be named with your last name, first name, and the title of the piece (ie., Doe, Jane – My Textures.jpeg). The detail image file must be named in a similar manner (ie., Doe, Jane – My Textures detail,.mpeg). Additional image files should be named similarly (Doe, Jane – My Textures Top_Back).

Credit must be given to all individuals participating directly or indirectly the work giving the role of each participant. This should include anyone who participated in the creation of this artwork.

Failure to comply with the above rules may result in your piece not being chosen.

Entry Fee: There is no entry fee.

Media Consent: Entering this exhibition confirms acceptance of the following:

1. I accept that emails may be sent o me with regards to my entry or the event
2. I accept that photos for my work may be used in various promotional or advertising opportunities in regards to this exhibition. This may include photography by the organizers, the general public for archival records, promotional and educational purposes, social media sites.

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be resident in the Eastern Ontario or Western Quebec region
2. Emerging artist is defined as:
 - a. Undergoing secondary or post-secondary education or training, or who have gained equivalent experience through independent practice, cultural or traditional knowledge and who have received recognition from their peers.

This opportunity is for you if you are:

1. A current student or recent graduate
2. An artist in the early stages of your career
3. A practising artist exploring new directions in your practice.

The Process

The curatorial panel will choose works that best reflect the theme while encompassing artistic and technical excellence. Decisions will be made from digital exhibits.

Works from all forms of fibre/textile mediums will be considered. Both 2 and 3D work is acceptable.

Piece(s) will be restricted to a maximum of 2' wide by 6' high and 5 kgs in weight.

Works must be original design and composition

No glass is allowed; front must be accessible to curatorial panel

Work must be ready to display at The Pews on Sunday, October 18, 2026. A 2' x 6' grid will be provided. Successful entrants should contact info@ if their work requires alternative hanging/set-up.

Work must be clean and odour free and match the images submitted.

All labels or identifying marks on the front and back must be covered.

Successful entrants must be available to be present at the event at The Pews on Sunday, October 18, 2026 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm to set-up and take down their exhibit and to meet visitors at the event throughout the day.

You may be selected to be interviewed by a traditional or digital journalist as part of the Fibre by The Locks marketing and promotion campaign.

Acknowledgement

In addition to having their work exhibited, each of the successful entrants will receive an honorarium of \$100.

For more information email fibrebythelocks@gmail.com and put EMERGING ARTISTS in the subject line.