**NAFOH Creative Arts Award**

*Narrative Art tells a story.*

*It uses the power of the visual image to ignite imaginations, evoke emotions and capture universal cultural truths and aspirations.*

*What distinguishes Narrative Art from other genres is its ability to narrate a story across diverse cultures, preserving it for future generations.*

- [Lucas Museum of Narrative Art](http://lucasmuseum.org/collection/narrative-art)

**Award Program Description**

Are you good at telling a story with your art? The NAFOH Creative Arts Award from the Maine Folklife Center in collaboration with the Department of Art is looking for applications from UMaine student artists interested in interpreting oral history from the Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History (NAFOH). The basis of the art project will be an interview (or sets of interviews) that the Awardee has selected from NAFOH to interpret. One of the most famous (and lengthy) examples of this type of translation of oral history to art is [Maus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maus) by cartoonist Art Spiegelman.

NAFOH’s holdings focus on occupations (logging and the lumbering industry, fishing and lobstering), community histories, lore and legends, traditional music, social activities, ritual and worship, material culture, foodways, women in Maine, country and western music, northeastern multi-ethnic culture, labor history, Native Americans, tourism, and hunting. To search through the finding aids to help you answer the first application question, you can use browse through topic specific groupings of collections which you can access via the [Special Collections: NAFOH website](http://libguides.library.umaine.edu/c.php?g=718650).

The format of the interpretation is up to the Awardee and could, for example, be in the form of a short graphic novel, a painting, or a sculpture. The project needs to be completed by April 10, 2018 and project progress will be reviewed periodically. At the conclusion of the project Awardees will give a public presentation and exhibit their resulting work at UMaine or other location chosen by the Awarder.

Amount of award to be determined by the committee based on the nature of the supported proposal and available funds. For the 2018 NAFOH Creative Arts Award we anticipate award to be around $400. Funds will be disbursed in two parts, half at the commencement of the project and half upon its successful conclusion. Award funds are intended to offset the cost of supplies and the artist’s time. NAFOH and the Maine Folklife Center retain the right to exhibit (physically and digitally) the project for one year after the first public exhibition stipulated by the award.

The NAFOH Creative Arts Award is supported by the Maine Folklife Center.

Award Application

Applicants: Please fill out this application and submit either by email or deliver it to the Maine Folklife Center.

Applications must be received by midnight on January 31, 2018.

The Application consists of four sections:

1. Contact Information

2. Application Questions

3. Portfolio/work sample

4. Statement of support from a UMaine art professor.

Submit applications electronically to katrina.wynn@maine.edu. Please submit in PDF, RTF or DOCX format.

The committee strongly encourages potential applicants to contact us with any questions about the program or projects prior to submitting an application. Please email Katrina Wynn (katrina.wynn@maine.edu) to arrange a time to go over your questions via phone.

**1) Contact Information**

Name of Applicant (First Last):

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Website:

Preferred gender pronoun:

**If applicant is under 18 at the time of submission:**

Name of Parent or Legal Guardian (First Last):

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Relationship to applicant:

**2) Application Questions:**

Please use not more than three pages to answer the application questions.

**1.** Which archival materials within NAFOH are you interested in working with? You may specify one of NAFOH’s collections as a whole or a particular interview.

**2.** What is your plan for the final product? Be sure to include what format/medium you will be working in.

**3.** Please describe what interests you about narrative art, including examples of this genre that have inspired you as an artist, how you think art can enhance the interpretation of narrative, or what you find appealing about this form of art.

**4.** An oral history is a personal story with personal meaning. What strategies do you propose to use to honor and respect the person’s experience when translating their story into your medium? You may find it useful to look at the [Oral History Association’s Principles and Best Practices](http://www.oralhistory.org/about/principles-and-practices/).

**3) Portfolio/Work Sample**

Please provide a link to your digital portfolio or attach or copies of examples of your work.

**4) Statement of Support**

In order to determine your readiness for such a project, please attach a short statement of support from one of your UMaine art professors. Statements from high school and other university art teachers will be considered as a substitution if you are new to UMaine. Ask you professor to write a short statement vouching for your artistic abilities and their view on your capabilities translating narrative into art.