

Moscow Contemporary believes in the value of art and artists.

Creativity is a fundamental animating life force that is accessible and integrated into people's lives. It is expressed in the care taken to craft everyday objects as much as bringing forth deeply interior visions. As such, our definition of art is open, expansive and responds to change. Ever mindful that cross-cultural definitions of art vary, we seek to celebrate and honor the inherent cultural context of creativity. Whether it emerges from a necessity to survive, express, thrive, heal, or grow, individually or culturally, human creation embodies art in its myriad forms.

Art has the potential to reckon with the past and heal deep and complicated riffs locally, nationally, and globally. It has the power to move people, bridge gaps in understanding, and spark our imaginations towards building a better and more equitable world (future). Art is a compass, it makes its own decisions and tells us what it is. Art reveals our shared human experiences and helps one feel seen.

Through exhibitions, programs, and operations we commit to:

Equity and Inclusion

- Art is for all. We strive to ensure that everyone feels welcome, connects with art through their own experiences, and sees themselves reflected in our programs.
- We recognize that strength emanates from the diversity and inclusion of all genders, cultures, nationalities, sexual orientations, spiritual traditions, ages, physical and intellectual abilities, personalities, skills, ethnic, racial, and economic backgrounds,
- We actively resist and condemn white supremacy, extreme nationalism, racism, sexism, and all forms of systemic oppressions.
- We work towards the elimination of economic inequality, recognizing that prosperity and justice are intertwined.

Community

- We aim to actively listen to, understand, and illuminate all members of the community.
- We seek to collaborate with artists, schools, cultural institutions, local businesses, nonprofits, and indigenous peoples to work with and for our community, to broaden our scope, build stronger relationships, and foster a healthy community.
- The arts are an economic driver and indicator of community vibrancy and resilience. Investing in the arts builds the greater good across the entire community.

Education

- Diversity of thought and opinion is critical to learning. We are a platform for open, respectful dialogue, debate, discussion, and the free exchange of ideas.
- We believe in the uplifting importance of beauty and that our different truths inevitably traverses difficult, critical, and controversial topics.
- As a community educational resource we endeavor to make art accessible and approachable to all.
- We believe in learning in circles. Expression, curiosity, and creativity enriches learning and critical thinking beyond the capacity of traditional classroom structures.

Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

- We believe in science. Global warming caused by humans is a serious threat to the future of our planet.
- We commit to care for our natural world by conserving resources, reducing waste, recycling, and reducing our use of toxic materials.

Integrity, Reflection and Transparency

- We believe that artists should be fairly compensated for their creative labor and value to society.
- We shepherd the resources entrusted to us toward maximizing our mission.
- Through continuous self-reflection, evaluation, and accountability, we commit to sustained intentional efforts to practice the highest standards in all our endeavors.
- We work to build trust by maintaining transparency.

Innovation and Resilience

- We strive to be as experimental and risk-taking as the artists with whom we collaborate.
- We embrace change and respond to complex truths in order to adapt to evolving landscapes and to envision a hopeful future.

If our programs help someone find their true calling as an artist, we are overjoyed. Understanding that this is a small fraction of our audience, our goal is to help create citizens that are imaginative, open-minded, flexible, and resilient. More importantly, through engagement with the arts, they are better positioned to see what's coming, respond more productively, and achieve better outcomes. **The arts build capacity in every arena of human endeavor.**