

Meridian Artists' Co-Op Application for Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work/Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I am applying for (Circle One)

Regular Active Membership Auxillary Membership Student Membership

List and prioritize medium(s) in which you work and wish to exhibit:

Current or recent affiliations with galleries, museums, shows, organizations, publications, etc.:

Do you have commitments that would restrict your participation in the Co-Op? YES NO If so, please explain. (NOTE: Such factors would not, in themselves, disqualify you from membership):

Unless applying for an Auxiliary Membership, Co-Op Bylaws require every Regular Active member to work at the gallery one day per month and every Student member to work 2 days per month. This can be broken into 2 or 4 half days, respectively. Please indicate which days of the week you would prefer to work.

Regular Active members are required to serve on one or more committees. Please indicate which committees you would be interested in serving on. (Circle all that apply)

Fund-Raising Grants Mailings Workshops Publicity/Advertising/Marketing

Program Committee Hanging Committee Membership Committee Classes

Volunteer Committee Friends Committee Refreshments Standards Committee

Other Programs/Committees As Needed

Would you be interested in participating in any of the following?

1.	Being an Officer of the Co-Op	YES	NO
2.	Being on the Planning Committee for Openings/Exhibitions?	YES	NO
3.	Help with Gallery functions (exhibits, hangings, etc.)	YES	NO
4.	Helping with the development and planning of the CO-OP	YES	NO

Hold Harmless Agreement

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for membership in the Meridian Artists' Co-op and hereby agree to abide by the bylaws of said Co-op. I understand that said membership in the Co-op shall be limited to the right to participate in the activities of the Co-op and that membership does not carry any rights to assets, profits, funds, or liabilities in any of the said Co-op.

I, the undersigned, hold harmless the Meridian Artists' Coop as to damage, theft, or any other type of loss to artwork. This agreement is to remain in force and cover all artwork displayed or in the care or custody of the Meridian Artists' Co-Op, now and in the future until termination of my membership.

When I am participating in any show, exhibit, or gallery function, I hereby agree that all artworks shall be juried for presentation and content in accordance with the bylaws of this Co-op and I promise to abide by all rules and /or regulations contained therein or presented expressly for any show requiring special conditions. I agree that any fees for shows or gallery space should be paid in advance. I understand that when exhibiting my work, all work must be ready to hang or display. I agree to help promote the exhibit. I understand any noncompliance with any part of this agreement or the Co-op bylaws could result in the forfeiture of my privilege of participating in future events. (Bylaws can be found at the Co-Op Gallery.)

I agree that I am committing to a one-year membership.

The undersigned has applied for membership in The Meridian Artists' Co-Op; has agreed to the monthly commitment of working in the Co-Op Gallery (unless applying for Auxiliary Membership; has agreed to pay the one time signup fee; has agreed to the monthly maintenance fees; and has agreed to all policies as stated in this document.

By signing below, the undersigned has agreed to the Membership Guidelines and Policies in preceding pages.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Detach and return this portion of the application

The Meridian Artists' Co-Op

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES & POLICIES

The Meridian Artists' Co-Op is a group of artists who are dedicated to creating a greater community awareness of the arts and art-related events. We are a non-profit, volunteer-run organization. We offer exhibits, openings, lectures, classes, workshops, and demonstrations.

Section I.

Membership Responsibilities:

A. Membership in the Co-Op is open to visual artists who meet the standards set; subscribe to the objectives and purposes of the Co-Op; pay any applicable dues and fees; meet membership commitment requirements; and agree to abide by the policies, rules and guidelines of the Co-Op.

B. Standards of Meridian Artists' Co-Op: To qualify for membership, an artist must demonstrate a dedicated commitment to the visual arts through continued production and exhibition of his/her visual art medium and a dedication to the creative community through participation in local art events.

C. Types of Membership:

1. Regular Active Membership: Artists are expected to commit to a regular, monthly 7 hour shift working the Co-Op Gallery. Gallery hours are 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. This time may be split into 2 half days per month, 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM or 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM. You will be trained in opening and closing of the Co-Op and any other pertinent procedures. If you have a preference of days you may schedule your request with the Scheduling Chairperson, Doris McKinney. (601-479-8283/601-693-1810/ doris@meridianartistscoop.org)

A Regular Active membership will have a \$50.00 Signup fee. There will be a \$35.00 monthly maintenance fee to help cover operating costs of the gallery and the website.

All Artists who have a Regular Active Membership will also be required to contribute time and expertise by joining one of the several committees that help in the running the Co-Op. This keeps our members involved in the day to day activities of the Co-Op. Active participation is strongly encouraged through membership meetings, openings, and various events. Committee work is mandantory and you may choose which committee(s) you would like to join - provided there is a space available in that committee.

2. Inactive Membership: Regular Active members can go to an "Inactive" Status Membership for a period of Not Less Than six (6) months. The monthly maintenance fee must be up-to-date before going to Inactive status and do not have to be paid during the inactive period, nor will member be scheduled to work, nor be required to do any committee work during this time. Member will not be able to display artwork in Artists' Gallery, but can display on website E-Gallery. A Regular Active member will be allowed to go "Inactive" only once every 3 years and will lose membership voting rights until he or she comes back Active.

3. Auxiliary Membership: An Auxiliary membership has all the privileges of an Active Membership. The difference is that an Auxiliary member is not required to work at the Co-Op, or be on any Committees.

The fees for an Auxiliary Membership are a one-time \$50.00 Signup fee and a \$45.00 monthly maintenance fees.

4. Student Membership: The student membership gives students a break on the membership fees, but requires that they commit more time at the gallery. The member must be a certified student with Student ID. Must be 18 years of age.

Student members will pay a \$25.00 Signup Fee and the monthly maintenance fee will be \$10.

Students are required to work 2 days or 4 HALF days each month. Students are not required to be on committees, unless they want to.

If a member cannot make his/her scheduled work commitment, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEMBER to ensure that a replacement is scheduled to work in his/her place.

Section II.

Benefits of Membership:

- Participating in Gallery Openings each year
- Display space in the physical gallery and the website E-Gallery to give your artwork exposure to a wide audience. The number of pieces you can display on our website is unlimited.
- Representation in shows sponsored by or participated in by the Meridian Artists' Co-Op
- Voting rights and a say in how our organization is run and what it does
- Networking and interacting with an eclectic array of artists -painters, sculptors, potters, photographers, jewelers, etc. and exchanging inspiration, encouragement, mentoring, critiquing, etc., with them
- The website contains special information on local events, workshops, classes, etc.
- Participating in classes and workshops given by the Co-Op
- Use of all Co-op facilities

Minimum Artwork Requirements:

All artwork must enhance the quality of the Gallery and will meet the following standards:

- No pornography, obscene or art depicting human violence
- All framed art must be wired for hanging. No saw tooth or other type of hangers
- The only unframed canvases that will be accepted will be the "Gallery Wrap" type with no visible staples. Sides of Gallery Wrap canvases must be painted as well.
- Frames must be in good condition; no splits, cracks, or scratches, etc.
- Mats will be clean, cleanly cut with appropriate backing
- Glass will be clean, secure and without scratches
- Artwork will be properly backed and mounted in their frames, do not use masking tape
- Sculpture/pottery may be presented with its own pedestal or use what is available at the Artists' Gallery
- All artwork must be original; no copyright infringements. Originality certificate label will be signed by artist and affixed to all artwork BEFORE it will be displayed in Co-Op Artists' Gallery. 3-D artists will sign a certificate to be kept on file at Co-Op.
- All small pieces (jewelry, etc.) will be packaged for display. Artists will provide their own display stands.

Gallery Policies

Hours of Operation for Co-Op:

Tuesday - Friday 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM (All Year Round)
Saturday: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
(September through January ONLY)

Quarterly Opening Reception

March, June, September and December -5:00 PM -8:00 PM

Special event hours will be announced on a case by case basis and will be filled by volunteer workers. **Special events and Committee work will be in addition to member's regular work commitment.** Members commit to requirements for type membership joined as outlined in Membership Responsibilities Section.

Members duties at Co-Op will include, but not be limited to the following: Greeting customers, showing and explaining the displayed art work, making coffee, keeping gallery and studio neat and clean in appearance. Making sure that Co-Op is locked up and secure at end of day. Active participation is strongly encouraged through membership meetings, openings, and various events.

Members are encouraged and some memberships require members to contribute time and expertise by joining one of the several committees that help in the running of the Gallery.

Failure to pay fees in a timely manner and failure to live up to membership commitments, can be grounds for termination of membership by Articles of Corporation and Bylaws.

The Co-Op is not responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of individual pieces of art work. All possible care will be exercised for the security of artwork and in the handling of artwork, but neither the Meridian Artists' Co-Op, its Artists' Gallery, its members, personnel, the group/committee member(s) in charge of displaying the work, nor the host business (or host site) will be held responsible for any loss, theft, or damage to any artwork, including those in shows or displays. Member can insure their individual artwork by getting a supplemental to their homeowners insurance. The Gallery will have an alarm system.

No food or alcohol will be sold on premises. (The one exception will be the drinks in the refrigerator.)

The members who are working the Co-op can work on their art while in between customers - We feel that this will be a draw to the public to come and see our artists at work -to actually see a piece of artwork being created that they can possibly purchase at a future date!

No Pets will be allowed on the premises

Number of pieces each member is allowed to display in the Artists' Gallery will depend on the size and mass of the artwork and the space available in gallery. The Co-op will attempt to be fair and equitable in this matter. However, as of now, there will be no restrictions on the number of pieces that you can have displayed for sale in the website E-Gallery.

Future plans of the Co-op include a studio area where members can come to work on their art, a matting and framing room, a photography room, classrooms, student and Visiting Artist Exhibition Hall, juried shows with prizes, student scholarships and many more plans to help educate and promote our local artists.