

Detroit Free Press

ARTS

## Art Mile, a metro Detroit event involving 50-plus galleries, is returning for a 2nd year

Ryan Patrick Hooper Special to the Detroit Free Press

Published 9:01 a.m. ET Apr. 15, 2021



Bridget Finn and Terese Reyes of Corktown gallery Reyes Finn. Provided By Jeff Wegner

A massive celebration of contemporary art that spans metro Detroit galleries, museums and art spaces is returning for its second year.

Art Mile will open June 14 and run through July 11. The arts festival — with some venues participating entirely online and others allowing visitors to their brick-and-mortar locations — will put the city's diverse art scene center stage. Plans call for all events, virtual and otherwise, to be free and open to the public.

Last year, the inaugural event included more than 55 venues. Organizers expect this year's edition to cast an even wider net, and applications from interested venues are now being sought. A proven track record of hosting exhibitions and supporting Detroit artists will be expected of applicants. Temporary venues with no background in the field will likely not be accepted.

Art Mile will get a boost from the involvement of Independent Curators International, a nonprofit organization with worldwide reach. The event is being organized by Reyes Finn, a contemporary art gallery in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood, as well as public relations firm Cultural Counsel in partnership with Red Bull Arts, which has a gallery in Eastern Market.

Details of the 2021 edition of Art Mile are still being worked out, but the public can expect digital exhibitions, film screenings and live panel discussions. The work of local artists also will be for sale.

"It's very transparent. Artists need money. Galleries need money and help artists make money," says organizer Bridget Finn of Reyes Finn. By embracing virtual gallery exhibitions and events, "we're trying to show people who don't live here what the Detroit art world has going on," she says.

At a time when COVID-19 has eroded budgets for the arts, Reyes Finn hopes local artists and the arts infrastructure that aims to support them will be the stars of the 2021 show.

"People in Detroit are working — that's what they've always done," says Finn. "A lot of people have spent the past year hunkering down and working on projects. I hope that this is an opportunity for some people to show those projects to the rest of us. We're not able to see them in person. This is the next big thing."

This year, Art Mile will also be launching the Art Mile Curatorial Fellowship because of "the need for new curatorial platforms that support challenging ideas from independent minds." The concept of diversifying museum and gallery staff has become a hot-button issue as social justice and racial equity protests bring the fight to the doorsteps of museums and galleries.

Applications for participating Art Mile exhibitors and the Art Mile Curatorial Fellowship are now being accepted. The event's website is [artmiledetroit.com](http://artmiledetroit.com).

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Gallery Hours  
Wednesday–Saturday  
12pm–6pm