

Noguchi Museum Announces Open Call for Artist Banners

Emerging artists based in Queens and self-identifying as Asian American and Pacific Islander are invited to submit designs for the Noguchi Museum's outdoor banners

Submissions Deadline: September 24, 2021



Noguchi Museum banners. ©INFGM / ARS

New York, NY (August 4, 2021) – The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, in partnership with the Queens Council on the Arts and Asian American Arts Alliance, is announcing an open call for emerging artists based in Queens and self-identifying as Asian American and Pacific Islander to submit designs for the Museum's three outdoor banners. The open call comes out of a museum-wide desire to raise awareness and amplify the voices of local Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) creatives, in response to the ongoing violence against the AAPI community across the United States. Three artists will be chosen by a jury composed of The Noguchi Museum's organizing committee, a cross departmental group of staff volunteers; and one representative from both partnering organizations. The winning artist will have their design installed outside of the Museum from Fall 2021 through Spring

2022, and will receive an honorarium of \$1000. The two runners-up will each receive an honorarium of \$500. Each of the finalists will be featured on the Museum's website and social media, and will be interviewed along with a studio visit. Students, full- or part-time, currently enrolled at the time of application for any degree or certificate granting programs may not apply.

OPEN CALL

"To be hybrid anticipates the future. This is America, the nation of all nationalities."

Isamu Noguchi, "I Become a Nisei," 1942. The Noguchi Museum Archives, MS_BIO_028_002. Published by The Noguchi Museum, 2020.

The recently escalating and continued violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across the United States has been particularly devastating for The Noguchi Museum's staff, visitors, and stakeholders. As an institution founded by Japanese American artist Isamu Noguchi, The Noguchi Museum stands in solidarity with the AAPI community. With the purpose of raising awareness and amplifying creative voices in its local AAPI community, the Museum invites emerging AAPI artists based in Queens to submit designs for the Museum's outdoor banners to advocate for anti-racism.

The Noguchi Museum Open Call for Artist Banners opens on Monday, August 9, 2021, for all artists of ages 18 and older who self-identify as AAPI and reside in or have a studio in Queens. To apply, artists must submit a digital file of their design for all three banners along with a CV and a one-paragraph artist statement that describes how their design addresses anti-racism. Submissions close Friday, September 24, 2021, at 11:59 pm ET, and finalists will be announced Monday, October 25, 2021. Banners will be revealed on the 117th anniversary of Isamu Noguchi's birth, Wednesday, November 17, 2021. Submission details: noguchi.org/artist-banners

JURORS

Noguchi Museum Organizing Committee:

Justin Baez, Media Coordinator

Lindy Chiu, Benefits & Accounts Payable Coordinator

Matt Hurley, Shipping Assistant, Akari and Design

Matt Kirsch, Curator of Research and Digital Content

Katie Korn, Administrative Associate

Sejin Park, Education Coordinator

Kate Wiener, Assistant Curator

Erin Zhuang, Budget Analyst

Rep. from Queens Council of the Arts

Rep. from Asian American Arts Alliance

ABOUT ISAMU NOGUCHI

The quintessential sculptor in an expanded field, Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988) believed that the purpose of art is to make us more human and in his own work sought to help humanity reestablish its sense of scale with nature. He was born in Los Angeles to a white American mother and a Japanese father. He grew up in Japan and Indiana, before relocating to New York, and eventually also establishing studios in Japan and Italy. Never feeling at home anywhere, he learned to make himself at home everywhere. Having made voluntary exile from any one dominant culture a creative platform, he operated as a universal person and a citizen of the world. His transdisciplinarity and refusal to be categorized led him to seek a mission for sculpture outside the art world. Looking beyond what he termed the false horizon of the pedestal, he anticipated land art, art as a social practice, and the mix of formalism and conceptualism that we now take for granted in sculpture. His ability to bridge many of the supposedly irreconcilable contradictions at the heart of contemporary life—such as the one between traditional cultures and technological innovation—have made him an influential source for a wide range of creative people and a cultural icon. Using everything he learned designing playgrounds, dance sets, and gardens, he remade sculpture into a discipline for understanding our place in the universe, a technology for transcending small-mindedness, and a technique for integrating the best habits and effects of craft into daily life. Focused from first to last on a better future, he aimed for nothing less than leaving his friend R. Buckminster Fuller’s Spaceship Earth a more interconnected and sustainable sculpture than he found it. To learn more about Isamu Noguchi, visit noguchi.org/biography.

ABOUT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

Founded in 1985 by category-defying artist Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum (now known as The Noguchi Museum) in Queens, New York, was the first museum in the United States to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Itself widely viewed as among the artist’s greatest achievements and holding the world’s largest collection of his works, the Museum features open air and indoor galleries in a repurposed 1920s industrial building and a serene outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to managing the artist’s archives and catalogue raisonné, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of Noguchi’s material culture, from sculpture, models, and drawings to his personal possessions. Provocative installations drawn from the permanent collection, together with diverse special exhibitions and collaborations with contemporary practitioners across disciplines, offer a multifaceted view of Noguchi’s art and illuminate his enduring influence as an innovator. noguchi.org | [@noguchimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/noguchimuseum)

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