

## **Guidelines for Submitting Exhibition Proposals**

### **Introduction**

Independent Curators International (ICI) is a non-profit organization that creates challenging traveling exhibitions of contemporary art. Collaborating with a wide range of distinguished curators, ICI offers an ambitious program of thematic exhibitions with substantial catalogues representing a broad cross-section of innovative thinking and aesthetic concerns.

Since its founding in 1975, ICI has launched nearly a hundred exhibitions. For nearly all of them, ICI has worked with a different curator, thus representing in its programs the varying experiences and areas of expertise of a significant number of international curators of contemporary art. ICI's exhibitions have been hosted by over 500 museums, university art galleries, and art centers in the United States and abroad.

For each exhibition, the curator develops the concept and establishes the checklist in consultation with ICI. Early on, the curator is required to provide ICI with images (slides or digital) of all works to be considered for the exhibition. The curator writes project descriptions as well as introductory wall texts, a catalogue essay and, where appropriate, suggests additional authors. The curator also obtains a verbal commitment from the lenders, ensuring that the artworks selected will be available for a two-year exhibition tour. ICI then organizes the loans, establishes the exhibition tour, and produces the catalogue.

### **How to Submit a Proposal**

1. Call ICI to discuss your exhibition idea to make sure it fits within ICI's general guidelines.
2. After this preliminary discussion, a concise, one-page curatorial statement of 200 to 250 words is requested, outlining the concept of the exhibition, accompanied by a representative sampling of at least ten images (photocopies are fine), and your résumé.
3. If ICI decides to formally consider the proposal, you will be asked to provide the following supporting materials:
  - a. A list of artists and a preliminary checklist. This information should also include the proposed size of the exhibition in terms of both the number of works and the space needed to present the works.
  - b. A selection of images of the works (or of representative works) to be included, accompanied by a typewritten narrative that provides artist, title, date, medium and dimension, as well as a brief description outlining the relationship of the specific work to the theme of the exhibition.
  - c. Brief biographies of the artists.

d. A selection of your writings, such as essays, critical writings, and/or exhibition catalogues.

### **Application Review**

Exhibition proposals are reviewed by ICI in consultation with ICI's Exhibitions Committee throughout the year based on the following criteria:

- Appropriateness of the exhibition to ICI's mission and its current exhibition program.
- Soundness of curatorial strategy and approach.
- Quality of the artists' work and combination of better- and lesser-known artists.
- Significance of the exhibition idea as well as its ability to remain timely during the four-year "life" of an exhibition, from the initial organization through the end of a two-year tour.
- Qualifications of the curator to develop the exhibition topic and to write a substantial, original and readable essay for the catalogue.

For further information on ICI,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.ici-exhibitions.org](http://www.ici-exhibitions.org)