

Frequently asked questions

Q - What is SSNAP

A - Launched in 2015, SSNAP is a biennial juried open competition focused on Canadian contemporary visual arts. From an intake of over 2,000 submissions, approximately 50 artworks are accepted in each cycle for the core national exhibition as determined by an independent jury of four eminent Canadian artists, curators, and collectors. A parallel show profiling approximately 50 works from among the SSNAP entries produced by residents of the Gulf Islands runs concurrently. Other activities include artist residencies, artist and curator talks, youth-focused activities and studio visits.

Q - Why is SSNAP unique?

A - SSNAP was created by artists for artists. Unlike other national art platforms, SSNAP is largely funded by a group of donors who believe in the event's importance and relevance to society. The emphasis is on the work submitted itself, not on the professional resumé of the artist. We have both emerging and established artists showing together. This is unique on the national stage.

Q – How many artists have been engaged in SSNAP?

A- Since 2015, a staggering 12,000 artists have submitted from all regions of Canada by some of Canada's finest contemporary artists, demonstrating the vibrant artistic landscape of the nation.

Q – How are artists selected to exhibit their work and how are awards selected?

A - A panel of four national jurors, different for each competition, meticulously selects the approximately 50 finalists, who stand at the forefront of artistic innovation and expression.

Q- Who have been on previous SSNAP juries?

A – See the list and bios of current and former SSNAP jurors on the SSNAP website <https://saltspringartprize.ca/about/the-jury/>

Q – How much is awarded in prize monies to artists?

A – There was a total prize fund of \$62,000 in 2025.

Q - What is so special about Salt Spring Island?

A – It is the small island with big art that embodies and celebrates creativity. One in every 9 workers on Salt Spring Island has a cultural occupation, and one in every 20 workers is an artist. It has the second highest percentage of its labour force in cultural occupations out of all municipalities in Canada (just one decimal point lower than Vancouver).