

## Blackfish Gallery

# Prospective Members Information

Blackfish Gallery is a cooperatively owned business operated, funded and maintained by its artist members through member dues and other sources. The gallery opened in 1979 as exhibition space by local artists. In addition to showing members' work in monthly exhibitions Blackfish features guest works through Fishbowl 2, a window art project open to any artist.

Blackfish employs a part time director to represent, promote and sell the art exhibited and to facilitate the day-to-day operations of the gallery. The artists make all major policy decisions at mandatory monthly meetings and also provide the expertise, energy and labor necessary to run the gallery in all its facets. Members perform the routine duties required to run and maintain the gallery. Each serves on at least one committee and also as gallery representative and sales assistant for one six-hour shift per month.

You must live close enough to Portland to participate in member duties.

### **Economic Obligations as a Member:**

Financial support comes from monthly dues of each member and 40% commissions from artwork sold. Upon becoming a member, each artist pays an initiation fee of \$150.00. Current monthly dues are \$70.00.

### **Exhibiting at Blackfish as a Member:**

Each member can expect to exhibit in a solo or two-artist show every 18 to 24 months. In addition, the gallery mounts an occasional group themed show in which members and guest artists show their work.

### **Blackfish Member Submission:**

Prospective member candidates should be artists who can clearly demonstrate their qualifications as professionals through the quality of their work and their record of professional achievement.

To apply for membership, please submit 20 images, on disk, of recent artwork, a corresponding image inventory list, letter of intent, resume that includes education and exhibitions, brief artist's statement and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Please send to:

**New Members Coordinator  
Blackfish Gallery  
420 NW 9th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97209**

New members are reviewed quarterly, depending on whether or not there is a membership slot available. (When we are at capacity, we keep a list of interested parties who have submitted a complete application package and hold a review when space comes available.) A positive, majority vote on your slides/images nets you an invitation to meet with us, present at least three examples of recent work, and answer questions members have about your art. After this review, members vote again; with a 2/3 vote, you are invited to join the gallery.

**Note:** Your application will not be reviewed if it is incomplete.

Apprentice Memberships are available. To qualify, you must have received an art degree within the last two years.

The initiation fee of \$150.00 is waived and the monthly dues are reduced by 50%. The apprentice member is asked to sit (11-5 PM) two days per month, as opposed to the routine one day per month. Since there are limited apprentice membership positions available, please indicate your interest in one in your letter of intent.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the New Member's Coordinator at 503-224-2634.

Blackfish website: <http://www.blackfish.com/>

YouTube: <http://youtube.com/user/blackfishgallery>