

Guidelines for a Critique Group

A Critique Group can offer friendly feedback and helpful perspective to artists and makers on a regular basis. Scheduled meetings also help you stay motivated with external deadlines (for each Critique Group meeting) and a break from the isolation of the studio.

Below are suggestions for a Critique Group Format, Host Responsibilities, Artists' Responsibilities, and a Guest Policy tested by over twenty years of experience.

CRITIQUE GROUP FORMAT

- Suggested length of time for a Critique Group meeting is **three hours**.
- Meeting **locations rotate** with each Critique Group member. The host gets the first hour for an *in-depth, insightful discussion* preferably in their studio space where participants get a more intuitive understanding for the foundation of the creative process and final work.
- Critique Group members will **show work in the order that they arrived** to the meeting. Participants arrive early if they anticipate sharing their work early in the meeting.
- The Critique Group format is most valuable when discussing **work in progress**. If people only bring work that is completed, the opportunity for mid-course corrections or improvement is lost.
- Participants can **avoid “show and tell”** by preparing a question relevant to the work in progress.
- Schedule future meetings as far as three meetings ahead to avoid last minute scheduling issues.

HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ideally, Invitations should be sent out **two weeks** prior to the meeting.
- *For best attendance*, a **follow up** email, postcard and/or phone call are the most effective reminders.
- The host may **not** cancel a Critique Group meeting for **LOW ATTENDANCE**.
- Simple **refreshments** are recommended.
- As artists arrive, the host should ask if they brought work, and then make a mental note of how many people have work to share.
- The host should make sure each artist who brings work gets **equal time** (in the remaining two hours). Use a timer to facilitate an equal time limit or the host may delegate this responsibility.

ARTISTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Please RSVP** promptly to the host regarding invitations so the host can plan accordingly.
- **Arrive ON TIME**. When people arrive late, the Critique Group meeting runs late. If everyone arrives early or close to the starting time, everyone will have time to share before it gets too late.
- Everyone has something to contribute to the Critique Group. **Participate actively**.
- Bringing work is only one aspect of sharing in each meeting. Your opinion, observation, or thoughts at every meeting give substance and purpose to make the Critique Group meetings worth attending
- Critique Group members should make a personal commitment to attend meetings regularly to sustain the long term viability of the Critique Group.