

Tom of Finland

F O U N D A T I O N

Over Three Decades Protecting, Preserving and Promoting Erotic Art

7th November 2023

Dear Michael Espinoza,

We are happy to inform you that you have been selected to be a part of Tom of Finland Foundation's artist in residency program for the following period: 1st August – 31st October. Please note that this residency is unpaid.

The duration of the residency program is 3 months. During this time, the artist works on a project and immerses themselves within the world of Tom of Finland in any way the artist sees fit. The goal is to present and share the work that has been completed during the artist's stay at TOM House. Each residency ends with a final exhibition, where works are presented.

You will be granted access to stay at TOM House (1421 Laveta Terrace, Los Angeles CA 90026) from 1st August – 31st October. You will reside in Lawton's Lookout for \$375 USD per month.

We are excited for you to join us. Please let us know, if you have any questions at all by reaching out to residency@tomoffinland.org or calling the Foundation at +1 (213) 250-1685.

Sincerely,



Durk Dehner
President & Cofounder



Dear Michael Espinoza

Congratulations on being selected to be one of our featured artists for 2024! We are very happy to have you as a featured artist on the line up for Art at Strut! It is going to be an exciting year! Thank you for your patience with us while we figured out the schedule for the art exhibits.

You have been assigned to the month of **SEPTEMBER!**

We tried our hardest to assign everyone the month that they wanted. As this wasn't guaranteed, if you did not get the month you wanted we are sorry, but the month you have been assigned is the only month we have available for you. **No switching allowed. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.**

We will be sending you an info packet with a bunch of information soon. **Please do not panic.** It may look like a lot, but it is just info that will help your art show process go smoother, help get you mentally prepared for what you need to do, and hopefully answer all the questions you may have. Please read it though, a lot of artists don't read it, then freak out leading up to their exhibition. Art info packet coming soon!

Right off the bat, it is important I mention your **Art at Strut Dates!** Please put these dates down on your calendar. These dates are in a way set in stone, we run a lot of different programs, events, services at Strut so scheduling is not very flexible, but if any of these dates don't work for you we will work best to find dates that work for the both of us, if we can but I can't guarantee anything.

ART AT STRUT DATES:

Your Installation date can be either be Monday, September 2nd from 12pm to 5pm or Monday, September 2nd from 5pm to 9pm - (If you work during the day) Please let me know which you prefer as soon as possible. PLEASE NOTE: We realize this is labor day Monday so if we need to reschedule we will but we would love to stick to this date if we can, lets talk!

Your ART OPENING event date is Friday, September 6th from 8PM to 10PM. (You must be present for your art opening)

Your taking down the art date is Monday September 30th PLEASE NOTE:

- You can either take down your art from 11am to 12pm, **(the art has to exit the building completely)** OR
- If you like most folks work during the day, I (Baruch the gallery manager) will take down your art and you can come into the building, wrap up, pack up and take your art home later in the day, I will be available from 5pm to 6pm for the pick up.
- If your art exhibition is huge or has a lot of moving parts, or has to be wrapped and packed up in a very specific way that will take a longer than an hour, we can come into the space as early as 10am. so you can have two hours to pack up your art and take it out of the building. **PLEASE NOTE: art has to completely exit the building on the date of the de-install**, we do not have storage at all, any whatsoever, we cannot store your art for you to pick up later.
- please let me know as soon as possible which time slot you can do.

Please make a note of these dates and plan accordingly.

Baruch (That's me!) would like to meet you. Lets have a meeting! If you live in the area Baruch our gallery manger would love to meet you, give you a tour of the gallery wall and Strut, and discuss the info packet with you and answer any questions you may have. If you don't live in the area we can schedule a virtual zoom meeting and he can show you the gallery wall over zoom. Lets pick a date and time that works for both of us!

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers:

Wall dimensions:

The wall dimensions are 35 feet across by 9 feet tall.



We normally ask that you have 15-20 pieces for the exhibit, OR generally fill the wall, the wall is yours, get creative, have fun, just don't destroy our wall please. The gallery wall is on the second floor of Strut.

We don't really let people install or hang art too close to the ground, or 4 feet from the floor, so please keep that in mind. When you install your show you are allowed to bring people/friends to help you carry things and install the art on the wall, I will be there to guide you and your friends and can help with the install, but I am unable to do any physical lifting of heavy things. When you take your art down you can also bring friends to help you take down your art and it get to your car.

Commissions:

We do not take commission, we created this art program to support queer artists, you get to keep all of your money from sales. All your art can be for sale and you get to keep all the money you make, we do not take a commission unless the artist chooses to donate a portion of their profits. This is also why we don't take part or get involved with the selling of the art.

Sales/Money Transactions/Art:

Strut and myself (Baruch) and the staff do not take part in any of the sales and or money handling, and or getting the art to the buyer or keeping or saving or holding the art for a buyer. If someone wants to buy one your pieces while it is up on our wall they have to contact you and buy it over the phone or meet you somewhere. All transactions have to happen between the artist and the buyer and the buyer has to wait till the show is over to get the art from you the artist. We do not deliver art or hold art at Strut (we have no storage, none at all, we are very much lacking space at Strut unfortunately.) At the end of the exhibition the artist must take down the art completely and the art must exit the building, then the artist can get the art to their buyer.

Merch:

If you can, we recommend you have a merch table during your art opening! Not a lot of folks that come to our art openings have the money to drop 800 to 1000 dollars on a piece, (some do, many do!) but a lot of folks have 20 to 30 bucks to buy a small print or poster, or tote bag or t-shirt, a lot of our past artists have made a good amount of money at their merch table during the art opening, bring a good friend that will stay sober and knows how to handle cash and or Venmo sales to work your merch table during your opening.

Exhibition Labels:

Please, please do not forget your exhibition labels. Your art should have a label next to each piece with at least the title of the piece, it can also have the price if the art is for sale and the medium, but that is optional. I only stress this, because I believe every single artist for the past year, has forgotten their labels. Then they say they will put them up before their art opening, and then they don't, and then they get stressed and have panic attacks as they attempt to put up their labels at 7:50pm, when their art opening reception is at 8pm. If you need help creating and printing your labels, that is totally fine, just please let me know in advance so I can walk you through it, or help you make them, we want to help you, we don't want you stressed out on the night of your art opening.

Here is my cell 510-684-9714 feel free to text me whenever, just know sometimes I am swamped and it takes me a bit to respond. Looking forward to a great year of art!

Sincerely,
Art at Strut
Baruch Porras Hernandez
Community Arts Events Manager

