

The Denver Council of the Arts invites submissions to a citywide display:

PLATO, OUR CONTEMPORARY



The famous Plato of Athens was a founder of Western philosophy, a political theorist of the first caliber, and a literary and rhetorical artist of the highest degree. At the same time, he was highly distrustful of rhetoric and poetry, one of democracy's most trenchant critics, and the man who institutionalized the radical philosophical mission that his teacher, Socrates, believed could only be conducted without institutional fetters. In short, Plato was a complex figure who, in his quest to discover how we ought to live grappled with the very same question of the relationship between ideas, politics, and art that confronts here, now, in Denver today.

To commemorate the work of Plato, the Denver Council of the Arts plans a citywide exhibition, titled "Plato, Our Contemporary." We encourage artists from across the "polis" of Denver to submit works of art from all media that interpret, for a contemporary audience, the significance of the texts of Plato.

WHAT WE SEEK

- ❖ **visual artworks:** We seek paintings, drawings, computer graphics, posters, and sculptures that interpret, for a contemporary audience, any argument from any of Plato texts. These compositions will be displayed at the Denver Art Museum.
- ❖ **musical artworks:** We also seek songs, scores, symphonies, and choreographed compositions that interpret, for a contemporary audience, any argument from any of Plato texts. These compositions will be performed at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.
- ❖ **literary artworks:** Finally, we hope to witness the reinvention of the Platonic dialogue form: Artists are encouraged to submit scripts (for the stage, screen, or radio) in which they dramatize, for a contemporary audience, the unfolding of a complex philosophical idea. These compositions will be staged at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

Each applicant is to bring a draft of his or her composition to 220 Daniels Hall, on the University of Denver campus, at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 19, to share with other applicants. Applicants will revise their compositions on the basis of the feedback they get from their peers. Revised compositions are due to curator John Tiedemann at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 21. The curator will offer further suggestions for revision. Final compositions are due to the curator on Sunday, March 14.