

## **Mentoring Artists for Women's Art Mentor Selection Criteria**

MAWA mentors are connected to the larger art world, locally, nationally and internationally. They have achieved a high level of respect for their artistic production, locally, nationally and internationally. They are capable. They want to share information and skills. They have experience with sharing their knowledge. They communicate effectively. They are committed to building community.

In order to provide the highest quality of mentorship, MAWA chooses a mentor considering the following criteria.

- A MAWA mentor has a demonstrated, sustained commitment to a professional practice in the visual arts that may include artistic production, curation, theory, community animation or activism.
- She has contributed to visual arts discourse, her community, and self-empowerment for other women in the visual arts.
- She is a positive role model for emerging artists because of the recognition she has received, such as:
  - having received local, provincial and national arts council funding
  - having been exhibited in curated group or solo shows nationally or internationally
  - having been exhibited in curated solo shows locally and nationally
  - having had her artwork written about in art magazines and periodicals
- She is a positive role model for emerging artists because of the activities she engages in, such as:
  - working as a volunteer in the arts community
  - generously sharing practical skills, information and contacts

Each year MAWA staff, with input from the Programming Committee, select 4 mentors for its core Foundation Mentorship Program. These senior women arts practitioners are selected with an eye to diversity. They represent a range of artistic practices, media, techniques, concerns and conceptual frameworks. Every effort is made to be inclusive of diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds, particularly Aboriginal women arts practitioners. If possible, mentors of different ages are selected, to provide the group with different generational perspectives. A mix of first-time mentors and returning mentors is selected. This creates an opportunity for experienced mentors to provide guidance to first-time mentors.

Because of its key place in MAWA programming, selection of Foundation Mentorship Program mentors is ratified by the Board of Directors.