Director, School of Art

The University of Manitoba (U of M) invites nominations, applications, and expressions of interest for the position of Director, School of Art.

The School of Art, established in 1913, is Western Canada’s oldest art institution. Situated in Winnipeg’s culturally diverse environment, it provides an opportunity for its students, faculty, and staff to engage with the global arts community. Its graduates have gone on to influence both the Canadian and international art scenes through their contributions to research, studio practice and education, as well as cultural organizations and institutions. With its grounding in skills-based visualization and art historical knowledge, the School of Art maintains programs in Art History and studio practice. Areas of instruction include ceramics, drawing, graphic design, painting, photography, print media, performance, open media, sculpture and video. Its main structure – the innovative ARTLab, opened in 2012 – and other facilities: ArtBarn, the Ceramics/Sculpture building, and the newly renovated Taché Hall, encompass traditional studio spaces and technologies, as well as state-of-the-art digital technologies for experimentation and research. It offers a general and honours BFA, a four year Diploma of Art, as well as an MFA degree.

Reporting to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), and as a member of the University’s senior leadership team, the Director is responsible for the overall academic and administrative leadership of the School. The successful candidate will be an inspiring and innovative leader with the skills and creativity to enhance excellence in artistic creation and production, professional training, and research and scholarly activity. The new Director will possess a strong academic profile in either studio art or art history, with an active practice and administrative experience. A hallmark of the ideal candidate will be a willingness to become immersed in Winnipeg’s vibrant cultural community, and to advance the School’s connections to the artistic landscape of the City of Winnipeg and Canada more broadly.

Winnipeg is internationally recognized as an artistic centre; its supportive artistic community fosters cultural production and sustains a vibrant and creative ecosystem. As the Winnipeg Arts Council has stated, “Winnipeg’s identity is embedded in our world-renowned cultural institutions, among the oldest and most respected in Canada. It lives in our cultural spaces and facilities, in our festivals, our galleries, our museums, our theatres, our architecture and our diverse communities and neighbourhoods. It breathes in our population of successful artists—filmmakers, musicians, dancers, composers, writers, visual artists, performers of every kind—and in the passion of our audiences and volunteers who champion and consume the astonishing volume of art and cultural events this city produces.”

Recognized as Western Canada’s first university, and located in the City of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba is a place where students come to learn and be inspired. The University, home to approximately 30,000 students, 5,000 academic staff, and 3,900 support staff, offers a
strong foundation in liberal arts and sciences as part of its broad range of undergraduate and graduate programs. As Manitoba’s only medical-doctoral institution and as a member of the U15 Group of Research Universities, the University dominates the Manitoba research landscape and ranks among Canada's most research-intensive universities. Over $1.8 billion in annual economic activity in the province is attributable to the University of Manitoba, making it one of the most important contributors to the province's prosperity. The University of Manitoba is located on Anishinaabe and Métis traditional land, and is home to a thriving community of Indigenous researchers, staff, and 2,400 First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. For more information on the University of Manitoba, an institution that is taking its place on the world stage, visit http://umanitoba.ca/.

The University of Manitoba is strongly committed to equity and diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from women, racialized persons/persons of colour, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, persons of all sexual orientations and genders, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. Application materials, including letters of reference, will be handled in accordance with the “Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Manitoba).”

Consideration of candidates will begin late June 2018. Nominations, applications or expressions of interest should be directed to Gerri Woodford or Nicole Duncan at mbschoolart@odgersberndtson.com.