



VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS

This exhibition provides a brief description of the mission and history of the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA). We also are delighted to exhibit the works of one of the many VLA Art & Law Residency artists, Molly Dilworth.

Established in 1969, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts is the pioneer in arts-related legal aid and educational programs about the legal and business issues that affect artist and arts organizations.

VLA believes that individual artists and arts organizations deserve access to dedicated legal representation and advocacy to ensure that their voices are heard and that their interests are protected. VLA also believes that the arts community should understand certain legal and business matters to protect themselves and their work. To achieve these goals, VLA serves the arts community through four program areas.

ADVOCACY

From its inception, VLA has played an important role in advocating for the arts community by participating in litigation, making public statements about matters of interest to the arts community, and making recommendations about pending legislation.

Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, 1 East 53rd Street, Sixth Floor, New York, NY 10022

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VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE ARTS

LEGAL SERVICES & MEDIATEART

VLA's Legal Services Department is its largest program. The department offers counseling and assistance to the arts community, as well as pro bono legal representation to low-income artists and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations.

Through its MediateArt program, the VLA pairs artists with mediators to resolve arts-related disputes outside the traditional legal framework. The program offers mediation, contract negotiation, and negotiation counseling services to artists and arts organizations in an objective, supportive forum.



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EDUCATION

VLA educates artists, arts professionals, attorneys, students, and the general public about legal and business issues that affect artistic and creative endeavors. VLA offers substantive legal and business classes and outreach events for the arts community and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations.

VLA reaches more than 5,000 people each year through in-house workshops, speaking engagements, appearances at national conferences and in the media, teaching engagements at local colleges and law schools, and its in-office resource library. VLA's active speakers bureau helps arts and cultural organizations secure experienced legal speakers for their own events.

VLA's workshops and classes cover a range of topics, such as immigration, estate planning, nonprofit incorporation and tax exemption, contracts, and copyright. Genre-specific classes are offered for visual artists, filmmakers, video artists, web designers, musicians, and dancers.



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ART & LAW RESIDENCY

Legal issues permeate every aspect of social, political, and cultural life—including artistic production. VLA's Art & Law Residency provides an intellectual and artistic setting for discussions and debates examining the overlap and disconnect between artistic production and the law from historical, social, ethical, and intellectual standpoints.

Resident artists use law as both a discourse and medium to create new visual artwork and critical writing. Semi-monthly seminars examining current art and law issues form the core of the program. Faculty, leading legal scholars, and visiting artists lead these seminars.

Artists and writers develop new projects and papers through the program, regularly receiving faculty support to discuss the aesthetic, practical, philosophical, legal, and judicial aspects of their work. Each residency culminates in a public exhibition and symposium in New York City. Professional curators work with the artists-in-residence to conceptualize and organize the annual exhibition.