

AMERICAN ABSTRACT ARTISTS

CONSTITUTION 1936—AMENDED 1949, REVISED 1988, REVISED 2013

ARTICLE I MISSION

Section 1: American Abstract Artists (AAA) brings together visual artists working in America whose work falls within the realm of *abstraction* in its many forms and manifestations, puts their Ideas and their work before the public and provides a forum for the membership and invited guests to discuss, challenge and defend the general and particular nature of abstract practice.

ARTICLE II CHARACTER OF THE GROUP

Section 1: AAA is a New York City based organization, though by virtue of the diverse geographic backgrounds of it's members, is an organization of national and international scope. Its members make artwork that is considered *abstract*. As developed in the 20th Century and practiced today, this approach to art-making is understood to include new media, modes of presentation and sources that may deviate from established and/or historical precedent. The group seeks to expand the reach of abstraction, conceptually and technologically. For this reason, we place a liberal interpretation upon the word *abstract*. We desire a broad, inclusive organization of artists working in the United States, who produce work sufficiently in character with this liberal conception of the word *abstract*.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Members are artists whose work falls within the realm of abstraction, who are nominated and elected by the membership and who comply with the requirements of the AAA Constitution and Bylaws. Members will contribute dues annually. Dues will be used for general operating expenses and may also be used for exhibition, publication and event expenses. Members have the right to raise additional funds beyond the annual membership dues when required for projects sanctioned by the group.

Section 2: Although members may vary in age and experience, the membership is a group of equals who have gathered voluntarily to exhibit, publicize and exchange views and information—activities from which it is intended that all will benefit. Therefore, administrative work is shared and opportunities are available for all members to participate in the ongoing business of AAA. Each and every year, members are expected to contribute their time beyond participation in meetings or involvement in exhibitions. Members are expected to serve on committees, volunteer for special projects, or serve as an Officer in the leadership on a regular basis.

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Section 3: When an opportunity emerges for new members to be recruited into the group, every candidate for membership must first be nominated by a current member in good standing. Subsequent to procedures outlined in the Bylaws having been successfully executed, the AAA member sponsoring the candidate will present the candidate to the membership for a vote. New members must be approved by a majority (50% + 1) of members present and casting ballots at an AAA meeting open to the full membership. There will be no proxy voting in elections of new members.

Section 4: In addition to membership as defined herein, the membership may elect to define and make available other forms of association with AAA. Such forms of association and the procedures by which they are offered to individuals or groups must be specified in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV GOVERNANCE

Section 1: The membership elects from within itself the following six Officers:

- 1 President
- 2 Vice-president
- 3 Secretary
- 4 Assistant Secretary
- 5 Treasurer
- 6 Assistant Treasurer

Section 2: Members will be elected to office by a majority (50% + 1) vote of members present and casting ballots at an AAA meeting open to the full membership.

Section 3: Officers shall serve three-year terms, the ends of which are to coincide with the calendar year. Officers may be re-elected to serve for a second, consecutive three year term. At the end of a second, consecutive term, a member may not be nominated or elected to serve in the same position again until after a period of one year has passed.

Section 4: Elections will be held during one of the fall meetings just prior to the expiration of an officer's term. Special elections may be held at other times to fill vacancies that are anticipated to occur prior to the end of the calendar year. All reasonable efforts shall be made so that elections to fill anticipated vacancies can be held prior to the office becoming vacant.

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- Section 5: The Officers will establish committees to facilitate the operation of the organization. Each committee will be chaired by a single member. A list of committees and their responsibilities will be specified in the Bylaws.
- Section 6: The six Officers and the Chairs of the committees comprise the Executive Committee. The Chair of the Executive Committee will be the President who will preside at its meetings. In the absence of the President, meetings will be presided over by the Vice President.
- Section 7: The Executive Committee will meet periodically to schedule general meetings, special events, and/or to propose an agenda of business to be discussed at general meetings.
- Section 8: The Secretary or the Assistant Secretary will record minutes of Executive Committee meetings and will make them available to the membership.
- Section 9: The six Officers may institute non-governing working groups, task forces and individual positions that will not have representation on the Executive Committee but will further facilitate the operations of the group.
- Section 10: General meetings of the membership will be scheduled approximately bi-monthly with a mid-summer meeting omitted. Special meetings may be requested by any member. To request a special meeting of the membership, a petition signed by 5% of the voting members should be filed with the Secretary. Special meetings will be scheduled following approval of the Executive Committee. The President or Vice-President will preside at general and special meetings.
- Section 11: The Secretary or the Assistant Secretary will record and disseminate to the membership minutes of the general meetings and will send other communications on behalf of the President, Vice President and the Executive Committee. The Secretary will maintain a list of current members and their contact information and will make this information available to the membership.
- Section 12: The Treasurer will be responsible for billing and collecting the members' annual dues, collecting any other items of income, maintaining an accounting of the Treasury, performing such disbursements as the organization shall authorize, preparing an annual report and financial statement and any reports required by state or federal authorities. The Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer will report on all account balances and recent expenditures at each general meeting of the membership.

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Section 13: The organization shall operate as a not-for-profit corporation formed for educational and cultural purposes, as defined by current law. In the event of the dissolution of the organization, assets will be turned over to another non-profit organization having similar purposes designated by the remaining members.

ARTICLE V: PROGRAM

Section 1: In order to further a dialogue among its members and with other artists and to inform the public, American Abstract Artists will organize exhibitions and encourage participation by as many members as possible. There is no limitation upon our members showing with other groups. On the contrary, we wish to encourage our members to form separate discussion and exhibition groups which may each have a more unified character than our general organization.

Section 2: Publication of journals, print portfolios, yearbooks, catalogs, books, pamphlets, transcripts of lectures, and other material will be undertaken periodically.

Section 3: Lectures, group discussions, panels, workshops, and other events will be scheduled from time to time to encourage and stimulate interaction among members of the organization, with other artists and with the public.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

Section 1: This Constitution will be reviewed every three years by the Executive Committee or a task force set up by the Executive Committee. Any amendments or revisions recommended by the Executive Committee must be approved by two thirds (2/3) of the members present and casting ballots at an AAA meeting open to the full membership.

ARTICLE VII BYLAWS

Section 1: The writing and approval by the membership of bylaws outlining policies and procedures consistent with this Constitution will be undertaken. The Bylaws will be reviewed annually and may be adopted, amended, revised or repealed, as needed. The Bylaws, as well as any amendments to, repealing of or revisions of, must be put to a vote by the membership and approved by a majority (50% + 1) of members present and casting ballots at a meeting open to the full membership.

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ARTICLE VIII VOTING

- Section 1: Matters brought to a vote by the membership will be decided by a majority (50% + 1) of the members present and casting ballots at a meeting open to the full membership.
- Section 2: The organization intends for votes to be cast following rigorous discussion and debate. Therefore, by default, proxy voting will not be allowed. Proxy voting may only be used in instances that have been approved by the Executive Committee.

(Adopted at the general meeting on March 3, 2013.)