

# **NAC GRANTS RESOURCE**

## **Artist Résumé and Biography**



### **ARTIST RÉSUMÉ**

An Artist Resume necessary for every professional artist to provide details of experience, accomplishments, endeavors, and abilities to potential clients, galleries, museums, artist calls, and as part of a press kit. Resumes may be organized by headings that outline the artist's art making activities. Under each heading, summarize the necessary information by date/year, with the most recent event first. Headings should stand out and can be bulleted or rendered in type using bold, underline, or italics. The specific categories to include depend upon each artistic discipline. For common resume formatting, see the Artist Résumé template and sample below.

An Artist Résumé should be a maximum of two pages and should include the following:

- Name, address, telephone and email
- Current employment in Nevada (if relevant) and pertinent professional experience
- Applicant's art making activities for the last four (4) years listed in reverse chronology (most recent first), by date and year
- If applicable, a section highlighting grants, honors, and/or awards received as an artist
- If applicable, a section outlining education, including degrees earned and periods of stud
- Artist Educators should also include information on at least two years of school/community residency programming

*Please note, an Artist Résumé is different from a Biography or CV. An Artist Biography, while containing similar information, is most often a summary written in the third person and in paragraph form (see more information below). The CV, or Curriculum Vitae, is a record of all professional activities within academic careers and is intended for use in academic situations only.*

## ARTIST RÉSUMÉ TEMPLATE

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### NAME & CONTACT INFORMATION:

[First & Last Name]

[Current Mailing Address - not a PO Box]

[Phone Number], [E-mail], [Website, if applicable]

**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:** *Include your **current employment** in Nevada – then list experience that is relevant to your professional art making career such as: teaching art; jobs held in your field; technical experience related to your artistic discipline; lectures, workshops and presentations given as an artist.*

[Year] [Position Held], [Employer], [City], [State]

[Year] [Volunteer/Committee Member/Board Member/Position], [Institution],  
[City], [State]

[Month, Year] [Lecture/Reading/Workshop/Presentation], “[Title (if applicable)]”,  
[Location], [City], [State]

### SELECTED PERFORMANCES/PUBLISHED WORKS/EXHIBITIONS:

#### Performing Arts Examples - Performances:

[Year] [Role], “[Title of Production/Event]”, [City], [State]

#### Literary Arts Examples – Published Works:

“[Work(s) Title]”, [Genre], [*Literary Magazine/Anthology/Blog*], [Month, Year]

“[Work Title]”, [Genre], [Publisher/Press], [City], [State], [Year]

#### Visual Arts Examples - Exhibitions:

[Year] [Solo/2-Person/Group Exhibition]. “[Exhibition Title]”, [Gallery], [City], [State]

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** *Articles, reviews, catalogues, radio and television interviews, etc. are placed under this heading. For visual artists, the bibliography includes material written about you and lists the inclusion of your artwork in books, magazines, newspapers, and catalogues. For performing artists, concerts, solo performances or featured roles, media coverage such as broadcast video or audio of your performance. Do not include self-recorded work or YouTube entries.*

[Author], “[Article Title]”, [*Name of Printed Publication*], [Date]

[Author], “[Title of Online Article]”, [*Name of Blog/Website/Online Journal*], ([Volume, Issue if applicable]), [Date], [URL]

[Interviewer], *Interview*, [*Radio/Television Station*], [Date]

**GRANTS/AWARDS:** *List all recognitions of merit, prizes won in competitions, grants, fellowships, scholarships, and other special recognitions.*

[Year] [Residency/Grant/Award], [Institution], [City], [State]

**EDUCATION:** *List all the academic degrees earned, noting honors; periods of study at schools or universities without completing a degree; residencies, workshops or classes attended and notable artists/teachers with whom you have studied.*

[Year] [Degree Type/Certificate] in [...], [University/College], [City], [State]

[Year] [University/College studied but did not receive degree], [City], [State]

## **ARTIST BIOGRAPHY**

An artist biography should provide context about who you are, what you do, what inspires you, and what you have achieved – as an artist. Write it in the third person and in paragraph form. Use the questions below to develop your narrative, then edit to no more than 400 words.

### **WHO ARE YOU**

- Where were you born and raised?
- Where do you live now and how long have you lived there?
- If you identify with a particular group (culture, ethnicity, occupation, etc.), what is that group and how are you connected to it?

### **BACKGROUND**

- What is your art form, medium or cultural practice and how did you come into it?
- How long have you been engaged with this art form or practice?
- When/where have you received education or training related to your artistic discipline? Who were your teachers/mentors?

### **ABOUT YOUR WORK**

- What influences your work? Describe your process, style, and work.
- If your art has been displayed/performed/published in the last 3-5 years, when and where?
- What are your goals or objectives with your art? Do you aspire to a certain level of mastery or practice?

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- If personal or professional milestones/awards have shaped your art, explain what and how.

## SAMPLE ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

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Matthew Couper was born in New Zealand and is based in Las Vegas after immigrating to the USA in 2010. His practice over the past decade has appropriated aspects of western art history. Through these painterly investigations, he discovered that history often repeats and helped him determine that Modernist notions of originality held little interest for his practice. Couper uses the established narrative traditions of art to discuss the space between environmental issues, religion and politics. Huffington Post art critic John Seed recently referred to Couper as an "artist with a Kafkaesque view of the world" whose imagery suggests "a pagan Catholic Cirque du Soleil"

Couper graduated with a painting Fine Arts degree in New Zealand in 1998. In 2003, Couper was awarded a Royal Over-Seas League International Scholarship to work and travel in the UK. He returned in the following year to exhibit at Jerwood Gallery, London and to continue traveling in Europe. He held his first public gallery solo exhibition with published monograph, *The Museum Of Inherent Vice* at the Sarjeant Gallery, Whanganui, after receiving a nine-month residency at the Tylee Cottage Artist in Residence programme in 2007. His exhibition 'Thirty-Three' (with gallery publication) toured several New Zealand public art galleries and museums between 2011 and 2014. Recently, Couper was awarded an Arquetopia Artist Residency in Puebla City, Mexico and his work was featured in a large State-wide survey exhibition at the Nevada Museum of Art in 2016 and 2017. He recently completed an Artist Print Residency at Idem Paris and an artist residency at Manoir du Bonhere, Normandie, France. His work will be part of an upcoming group exhibition at Crypte Musee, Saint Eugiene, Biarritz, France in August.

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Though born in America, Dona Brown's family, heritage, and heart are in County Cork, Ireland. Her great grandmother, who was still teaching Irish dance at 95 years of age, set a life course for Dona by teaching her to do a jig when she was about five years old. From then on, she practiced traditional Irish dance and studied Irish culture. Dona moved from Chicago to Las Vegas around 1980. In the mid-1990s, the popularity of Irish dance occasioned by shows such as Riverdance resulted in an increased demand for her art form. She often dances to live bagpipe music and, in addition to performing, she teaches dance and choreographs her own productions.

Most of Dona's dances are traditional Irish "performance" dances, as opposed to social dances. She performs versions of Irish step dancing that developed centuries ago along with traditional Irish music. This style of dancing includes rapid foot movements, a rigid upper body position and the arms held close the sides, with little or no movement. Two different types of shoes are worn during Irish dance. The reels and jigs Dona performs are done in "soft shoe" (soft shoes similar to ballet slippers). Dona also knows "hard shoe" (heeled shoes, like the ones used for tap dancing) dances.

Dona also plays the violin, saxophone, and the bodhran (a traditional Irish hand drum). When she teaches dance steps, she likes to intersperse the movement practice with stories about the culture, language, history, and beauty of the land of Ireland. Her dance costumes, many of which are hand embroidered, each tell a story as well. Her knowledge is extensive. She can teach a seminar or workshop on the origins and politics of Irish dance, how the steps formed and changed over time, and the cultural influences—both outside and within Ireland—on traditional Irish dancing. During her presentations the music, costumes, dances, and stories are woven together in a performance that makes Ireland come alive for the audience.