

# Volume One Submission Guidelines

VACANT Arts Journal  
Published by BAROQUE MEDUSA Media

| SUBMISSION DEADLINE | TARGET PUBLICATION | SUBMISSION FEE |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| October 31, 2026    | January 2027       | None           |

VACANT Arts Journal is a curated, semi-annual publication celebrating independent creators across writing, photography, illustration, painting, digital art, sculpture, mixed media, and other creative disciplines. Volume One has no required theme. We are looking for original work that shows a distinct point of view and contributes to the publication as a whole.

Every submission will be thoughtfully reviewed. Submission does not guarantee publication.

## Who May Submit

VACANT welcomes independent creators working in a wide range of disciplines, including:

- Writers, poets, essayists, short-story writers, memoir writers, screenwriters, songwriters, lyricists, and journal writers.
- Photographers, digital artists, graphic designers, painters, illustrators, sketch artists, comic artists, mixed-media artists, collage artists, printmakers, calligraphers, and lettering artists.
- Sculptors, ceramic artists, installation artists, fiber artists, textile artists, and other makers submitting professional photographs of their original work.
- Other creators whose work may not fit neatly into one category. If you create, we would love to see your work.

## What We Are Looking For

- Original work created by the person submitting it.
- Work with a clear creative voice, strong presentation, and intentional craftsmanship.
- Writing and visual art that can stand on its own within a curated print publication.
- Work that adds something meaningful, unexpected, moving, or visually compelling to Volume One.

## Generative AI Policy

**VACANT does not accept AI-generated creative work.** Submissions may not be created wholly or partially using generative artificial intelligence, including AI-generated writing, images, illustrations, photographs, or other creative content.

- Basic spelling, grammar, formatting, color correction, image cleanup, and non-generative editing tools are permitted when the underlying work was created by the submitter.
- Generative fill, AI image expansion, AI-created elements, and AI-written passages are not permitted.
- Submitters must confirm that their work complies with this policy.

## Originality and Previous Publication

- Previously unpublished work is preferred.
- Work shared on the creator's personal website, portfolio, or social media remains eligible.

- Work previously published in a book, magazine, journal, commercial campaign, exhibition catalog, or another edited publication must be disclosed in the submission form.
- Simultaneous submissions are permitted. Please notify VACANT promptly if the work becomes unavailable.

## Submission Limits

- Each creator may submit up to five original works for consideration using one submission form.
- You do not need to complete a separate form for each work.
- Upload each work in its corresponding file-upload field and provide the title and a brief summary or backstory for each submission.

## Writing Guidelines

| CATEGORY                       | LIMIT                                               |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Poetry                         | Up to 3 poems; no more than 5 total pages           |
| Flash Fiction or Short Prose   | Up to 1,500 words                                   |
| Essay, Memoir, or Short Story  | Up to 2,500 words                                   |
| Lyrics or Experimental Writing | Up to 5 pages                                       |
| Excerpts                       | Accepted only when the excerpt can stand on its own |

Written submissions should be carefully proofread and submitted in their intended reading order.

## Visual Art Guidelines

- Submit a high-quality reproduction of the artwork or a professional photograph of the physical work.
- Images should be clear, properly lit, in focus, and free of visible watermarks, frames, mockups, screenshots, or interface elements.
- Provide the title, year created, medium, original dimensions, and orientation of the work.
- If another person photographed the artwork, provide the photographer's name and confirm that you have permission to use the photograph.
- Minor cropping, resizing, and print-production adjustments may be required if the work is selected.

## File Requirements

### Visual submissions

- Accepted formats: high-quality JPEG, PNG, or TIFF.
- Maximum file size: 25 MB per file.
- 300 DPI is preferred. Submit the highest-quality version available.
- Do not submit RAW camera files, Photoshop project files, Canva share links, screenshots, or watermarked images.

### Written submissions

- Microsoft Word (.docx) is preferred.
- PDF is accepted when the formatting is essential to the work.

- Maximum file size: 10 MB.
- Do not submit editable Google Docs links.

### How to provide files

- Complete one official Volume One submission form to submit up to five original works.
- Upload each work directly to its corresponding file-upload field in the form.
- Make sure every file is clearly labeled, opens correctly, and meets the file requirements above.
- Review your uploaded files and submission details carefully before submitting the form.

## Information Required With the Submission Form

- Creator's legal name and the name or pen name to be published.
- Email address.
- Title of the work, or confirmation that the work is untitled.
- Creative category and medium.
- Brief creator bio: maximum 500 characters, including spaces.
- Statement, summary, or backstory about the work: maximum 1,000 characters, including spaces.
- Website or portfolio URL, if applicable.
- One primary social-media platform and handle, if applicable.
- Uploaded file or files and any required credits or previous-publication disclosures.

## Content Standards

Submissions must comply with copyright law and Amazon KDP content requirements. VACANT will not consider work containing:

- Plagiarism, copyright infringement, or unauthorized use of another person's work.
- Unlawful content, hateful or discriminatory content, or content that promotes violence against a protected group.
- Explicit pornography.
- Material that violates another person's privacy, publicity rights, or confidentiality.
- Generative AI content prohibited by the policy above.

VACANT may request model, property, photographer, or other permissions when identifiable people, private property, or third-party material appears in a submission.

## Selection Process

Every submission will be thoughtfully reviewed. Selected works will be curated based on:

- Originality
- Presentation
- Craftsmanship
- Creative voice
- How the work contributes to the balance and direction of Volume One

**Submitting work does not guarantee acceptance.** All submission decisions are final. Selected creators will be contacted by email with next steps, including a contributor agreement and any requests for final files or revisions.

## Rights and Publication Permission

- Creators retain copyright and ownership of their work.

- By submitting, the creator confirms that they own the work and have the authority to submit it for consideration.
- If selected, the creator will be asked to sign a separate contributor agreement granting VACANT Arts Journal and Baroque Medusa Media permission to publish the work in the print edition and any corresponding digital edition.
- The agreement will also cover reasonable formatting, proofreading, image resizing, cropping, reproduction adjustments, and promotional use related to the journal.
- Substantial editorial changes will not be made without the contributor's approval.

## Publication and Contributor Copies

Selected work will become part of Volume One of VACANT Arts Journal, a semi-annual arts publication from Baroque Medusa Media. The paperback is scheduled for release in January 2027 and will be available through Amazon.

- There is no submission fee.
- Contributors will not receive royalties or a publication fee.
- Selected contributors will receive publication credit and a creator profile featuring approved bio and contact information.
- Contributors will have the opportunity to purchase copies at a special contributor rate. Ordering instructions, shipping costs, taxes, and the final price will be provided by email after publication details are finalized.
- A complimentary copy is not guaranteed.

## Eligibility

- Submissions are open to creators regardless of location, provided they can communicate by email and grant the necessary publication permissions.
- VACANT reserves the right to decline any submission that does not follow these guidelines.

**If you have been looking for a place to share your creativity, this is your invitation.**

We look forward to experiencing your work.

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