



Travel Scholarships Students to attend
the 2025 Company of Ideas Forum on Art and the Sacred

Hosted by The Jeffrey Rubinoff Sculpture Park
June 16–19, 2025
Hornby Island, British Columbia

The [Jeffrey Rubinoff Sculpture Park \(JRSP\)](#) invites applications from Canadian graduate students and highly motivated senior undergraduates to participate in the **2025 Company of Ideas Forum**. This year's theme is **Art and the Sacred**, and the event will take place from **June 16 to 19, 2025**, at the Sculpture Park on beautiful [Hornby Island in British Columbia](#).

Founded by sculptor Jeffrey Rubinoff, the [Company of Ideas Forum](#) is an annual multidisciplinary symposium dedicated to exploring the historical, ethical and aesthetic questions in relation visual art. Since 2008, the Forum has brought together artists, scholars, and students to discuss art's role in society, technology, moral conscience, and now, its relationship with the sacred. These intergenerational and interdisciplinary dialogues reflect Rubinoff's belief in art as a source of knowledge for the evolution of mind.

This year, **Canadian students will have the opportunity to attend and contribute to the Forum**, participating alongside peers from the University of Victoria.

Eligibility

- Canadian post-secondary students are welcome to apply, the following are eligible:
 - Students in their final year of undergraduate studies
 - Master's or PhD students
 - Recent graduates from a Canadian post-secondary institution (from 2024)
- All disciplines welcome; however, your academic track record and/or presentation topic should align with the theme of **Art and the Sacred**
- Must be available to travel June 16–19, 2025
- Outbound travel on June 15th might be necessary depending on departure city

- Must depart from and return to one Canadian airport
- Driving ability is an asset but not required

What's Included

- Roundtrip transportation from a Canadian city to Hornby Island
- Accommodation and all meals
- Full participation in the Forum and related activities
- Letter acknowledging the scholarship award and its value (if needed)

Student Participation Opportunities

Students will be invited to engage in all Forum activities (some are discretionary):

- Participation in all Forum sessions and collegial meals (not optional)
- Participation in the sculpture park tour (not optional)
- 10–15 minute presentation on the theme of **Art and the Sacred** (by mutual agreement)

2025 Questions for Student Presentations

Students are encouraged, but not required, to give a presentation at the Forum. The following are broad topics your research presentation could fit within:

- How has art influenced the evolution of religion and spirituality?
- Can non-religious art be sacred?
- When does an artwork cease to be sacred?

Application Requirements

- **CV** detailing academic background (institution, program, current year of study, relevant experience)
- **One page Motivation letter** explaining your interest in the Forum, how you would contribute, and how engaging with Jeffrey Rubinoff's work supports your academic or creative path.
- **NOTE:** Below are links to the website and past Forums to assist in building familiarity with the Forum format.

Application Deadline: May 8, 2025

Apply or Inquire

Send your CV and motivation letter by **May 8th** at 5pm Pacific Daylight Time to:

 admin@rubinoffsculpturepark.org

Attn: **Joy Takefman, Administrative Coordinator**

For more information about the Jeffrey Rubinoff Sculpture Park, the Company of Ideas Forum, and past events, please visit:

 www.rubinoffsculpturepark.org

Past Forum Information

Company of Ideas Forum

<https://www.rubinoffsculpturepark.org/company-of-ideas-forum/>

You Tube Channel

- **2024: On Art and Artificial Intelligence**
Explored the intersection of AI and visual art, addressing questions about creativity, authorship, and the evolving role of technology in artistic practices. Discussions included the impact of AI-generated art on traditional notions of artistic agency and the ethical implications of AI in the art world.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMS_jLTSFjk
- **2023 Forum on Art and Music**
Investigated the relationship between visual art and music, examining how these forms influence and inform each other. Topics included the synesthetic experiences of artists, the translation of musical concepts into visual mediums, and the collaborative potential between composers and visual artists.
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSyq-wgZDI3maqvuFDLQDJMlfCWR0MuG7>
- **2022 Forum on Art and Crisis**
Explored the relationship between art and catastrophe, reflecting on the vast artistic consequences of Covid-19, but also examining how other crises, both past and present — shaped, and were shaped by, visual art
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSyq-wgZDI3mWF-OKWyhx69vP2-jxrWk>
- **2019: Art and Moral Conscience**
Focused on the moral responsibilities of artists and the role of art in addressing ethical dilemmas. The Forum considered how art can act as a catalyst for social change and the ways in which artists grapple with moral issues in their work.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xuL8gh08uyw&list=PLSyq-wgZDI3kzntTuBJDUb0MI_67hoDs6

The Jeffrey Rubinoff Sculpture Park

The Company of Ideas Forum

16-19 June 2025

Art and the Sacred

'Art provides a means to experience the sacred beyond prescriptive narrative'

Jeffrey Rubinoff

The history of art is inseparable from the history of religion. These two fundamental human practices have been connected for tens of thousands of years. They may even have emerged together during prehistory, when – as far as we know – objects and images were believed to possess talismanic force and used to propitiate or repel powerful spirits.

As spiritual beliefs became more organised in the ancient world, artists created effigies of their gods and deities, and converted important sacred stories into pictures. For some, such images were invaluable pedagogical tools – Pope Gregory famously called them 'bibles for the illiterate' – but others, fearing the risks of idolatry, destroyed vast quantities of religious imagery in Europe and the Middle East.

As western societies secularised, the old and powerful connection between art and religion weakened. But from the nineteenth century onwards, the art world increasingly appropriated many of its affects. From Kazimir Malevich and Wassily Kandinsky to Bill Viola and Marina Abramovic, many modern artists aspired – often explicitly – to create numinous or transcendental work that provoked quasi-religious experiences.

At this year's Forum we will explore the old and complex relationship between art and sacred, with conversations ranging throughout history and across the world. Over two stimulating days delegates will interrogate a cluster of related questions, including: How has art influenced the evolution of religion and spirituality? Can non-religious art be sacred? And how do western and non-western traditions compare?