

ACQUISITION POLICY

This document details Vidéographe's artistic parameters and the process entailed in the selection of works for distribution.

INTRODUCTION

As a distributor, Vidéographe is active in both commercial and non-commercial networks; these include festivals, broadcasters, schools and universities, public libraries, museums, galleries, community groups, film clubs, private enterprises, individual consumers, and 'video on demand'. Vidéographe also serves curators and programmers. Lastly, the organization operates Vithèque, a site dedicated to promoting video, which gives consumers, audio-visual professionals, and institutions online access to Vidéographe's collection as well as texts, programs, and educational material.

Vidéographe is a non-exclusive distributor, which means that artists retain possession of all rights over their work, including those pertaining to promotion, and may sign agreements with other distributors or buyers. Vidéographe does not, however, accept works that already have a distributor in Quebec, in order to encourage diversity in the catalogues of all parties.

Vidéographe's distribution activities are decided according to the capacity of its human and financial resources with respect to acquisition, processing, and conservation, in order to ensure that each work be promoted and that all artists' expectations be met. The mandates and activities of other organizations involved in distribution and dissemination in Quebec and Canada are also taken into consideration.

OBJECTIVES

Vidéographe's principal objectives with regards to distribution are:

- to ensure the visibility, circulation, and accessibility of video made in Quebec
- to support established and emerging artists and generate fair revenues for their work
- to promote Québécois video from a historic, critical, and educational perspective
- to ensure the long-term promotion and preservation of its catalogue

Vidéographe aims to reflect Quebec's cultural, sexual, linguistic, and identity-related diversity and to support artists from traditionally under-represented or marginalized groups.

SCOPE

Vidéographe is dedicated to experimental forms in moving image. The organization distributes single-channel video works (short, long and medium-length) as well as single- and multi-channel video installations. All genres are given consideration, including video art, experimental works, fiction, documentary or essay form, animation, and dance video.

Vidéographe supports independent artists, as described by the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec: “(...) meaning that the **artist-author must have full control over the contents and the direction of his or her work**, as well as all production and distribution agreements. He or she holds all reproduction and public exhibition rights for his or her work and can, by granting a licence, extend such rights to a producer or independent distributor. This practice is in keeping with production subject to cultural industry market laws.”

Vidéographe is dedicated to art from Quebec but also distributes work by artists from the rest of Canada and abroad that is considered important and that complements the collection. Vidéographe supports emerging as well as recognized artists.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Vidéographe prioritizes independent works that stand apart for their currency and endeavour to renew the artistic language. Examples include:

- a crossing over of genres, techniques, and technologies
- reflections on the media or the cinematic, videographic, or installation-based form
- research into and advancement of new artistic forms in tune with the socio-political and technological issues of our time
- the exploration of unconventional narrative or documentary forms
- practical research

The selection criteria also include:

- experimentation
- rigorous and relevant research
- interest in advancing the discipline
- social and political engagement
- complementarity (aesthetic and/or thematic) with Vidéographe’s catalogue
- the work’s potential for dissemination

ELIMINATORY CRITERIA

The following will automatically be refused:

- feature-length fiction
- television series
- recordings
- video clips
- pornography
- corporate films or commercials
- commercial productions

Projects of a conventional nature, for example short-length narrative classics or television documentaries, do not meet Vidéographe’s mandate and are therefore not suitable for its catalogue.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Spontaneous submission on the part of artists:

Submissions may be made at any time. The form provided on the website must be used for all submissions; only complete files will be considered. Artists may submit completed works or those in an advanced stage of production. Both recent and older works will be considered; however, active distribution, particularly regarding festivals, is reserved for recent works (less than one year). Films in languages other than French or English must be sub-titled.

Other submissions:

When titles come to the attention of the distribution team through festivals, for example, the artists may be invited to submit their work to the selection committee. In the case of works produced as part of Vidéographe's programmes for creation, the centre reserves the first right of distribution, but is not obliged to distribute the work. Certain projects are also taken on for distribution prior to filming on the basis of the project/screenplay (SODEC criteria). Lastly, certain older titles may be added to the collection for their historical and heritage value or to complete an artist's portfolio, on the recommendation of the Conservator and of the Distribution Coordinator.

SELECTION PROCESS

An initial selection of submissions received is carried out by the Conservator and Distribution Coordinator, to rule out works that do not meet the established criteria. The final selection of works is made by a committee, who ensure transparency, rigour, and impartiality. The committee also approve supporting letters, pre-agreements, or the acquisition of older titles chosen by the distribution team.

The committee is made up of the Vidéographe's Director, Distribution Coordinator, Conservator, a member of Vidéographe, and an external expert – a curator, researcher, or artist. All committee members, with the exception of Vidéographe employees, have a mandate of no longer than two years. Nominations are made on invitation by the Direction or through calls for participation and are approved by the Board of Directors. The committee meets every two months.

The Distribution Coordinator will ensure that all committee members receive all necessary material prior to the meeting. Decisions are taken by a majority vote, with each member having an equal say. The committee evaluates submissions and bases its decisions and actions on the work and the artist's file, taking into account Vidéographe's mission statement, acquisition policy, collection, and the expertise of each of its members. Minutes of each meeting are taken by the Conservator and kept on file.

The Distribution Coordinator will advise artists of the committee's decisions by email within a maximum of 60 days following the submission of their file. Should the work be accepted for



distribution, the distribution team will meet the artist to sign the contract and discuss a marketing plan. The artist must provide all required material at their earliest possible convenience. Should an application be refused, the artist will receive a personal email giving the reasons for its refusal.

The contract is for a period of five years. It is then automatically renewed each year, unless notice to the contrary is given at least six months before its expiry date. The signatory of the distribution contract must become a member of Vidéographe. The membership fee is \$50.00.

UPDATES:

Should this policy be modified or altered in any way, a new version will be made public on Vidéographe's website.

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