

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

### Salem Reads 2025 | 9th Season

This is a Call for Artists to create one to four (1-4) pieces of artwork based on the book, *Why Didn't You Tell Me?* by author Carmen Rita Wong for the Salem Reads Art Exhibit.

After a rigorous selection process and vote, our community selected *Why Didn't You Tell Me?* by Carmen Rita Wong as its Salem Reads 2025 book. We hope that you will interpret the book in your own style to be part of a **curated group exhibition** (in collaboration with the **Salem Art Association**) for the **Salem Reads Art Exhibit** at the **Salem Public Library** (Art Hall, 585 Liberty Street SE) for the month of **February 2025**.

Salem Reads is a collaboration of the Salem Public Library Foundation and the Salem Public Library, and is a community-wide reading project that invites the people to come together in person or virtually through reading, discussion, art, and programs based on the themes of a common book. The Salem Public Library Foundation funds this effort to increase the Library's visibility, foster community, and to invite people of diverse ages, backgrounds, and viewpoints to come together to discuss compelling topics.

#### Why take part?

- Participate as an artist in a group show and see how other artists interpret the book and its themes.
- Be a part of a great community celebration of reading and the Salem Public Library.
- Long-term display of your work on the Foundation website (view past artwork at the [SPLF website](#)).
- Support local libraries!

#### Month of October: Pick up your copy of *Why Didn't You Tell Me?*

You can pick up a copy of the book at the Salem Art Association (SAA) located at 600 Mission St SE, or email Kathy Dinges at [kathleen@salemart.org](mailto:kathleen@salemart.org) and coordinate a pick-up time at SAA's Front Desk. In addition, eBooks are available to download on the [cloudLibrary](#) and [Libby](#) apps.

#### Friday, November 15: Submit proposal for artwork

Submit the following by **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15** to [kathleen@salemart.org](mailto:kathleen@salemart.org):

- Three (3) images of current artwork as examples of your work/style
- A written proposal addressing or describing:
  - The artwork you would make in response to the book
  - Reasons why you would make that particular artwork
  - How many artwork pieces you propose to make
  - The size or dimensions of your artwork
  - The medium(s) you will use
  - Your contact information
  - **Content must be age-appropriate for all library attendees, including children.**



**You will be notified via email the week of November 18, 2024  
about your acceptance into the exhibition.**

**November 19, 2024 – mid January, 2025: *If selected***

Allotted time to create proposed artwork for the exhibition.

**Mid-January, 2025: Deliver artwork to Salem Public Library for exhibition**

Exhibit pieces will be hung in late January, and removed and repacked at the end of February.

**Important Details:**

**Exhibit Hours and Dates:** The exhibit will be available for viewing by the public during the Library's open hours in the month of February. The Library is closed on Mondays.

**Display Area:** Salem Public Library Art Hall, Floor 1

**Supplies:** Each artist will have a supply budget available for this project at Art Department (254 Commercial Street NE). We estimate 5-8 participating artists. A total budget for each artist will likely be between \$150.00 – \$200.00.

**Artwork Required Specs, Artist Information, and Delivery Dates:**

- The artwork must reflect the story and themes of the book.
- 2-D pieces sized 16" x 20" or larger work best, although dimensions are flexible. There isn't much capacity for 3D works, unfortunately.
- Artwork must be professionally framed, and ready to hang on a cable mounting system with uncoated hanging wire.
- Required: Install D-Ring hardware pointing up, center top of D-Ring needs to be 1" in from side, 2" down from the top. This is very important for a uniform appearance on the cable mounting system. Assistance is available if needed.
- Appropriate packing for travel to regional Libraries for extended exhibit display.
- Digital photo of artwork(s), brief artist biography, statement text, and label text must be emailed to Kathy at [kathleen@salemart.org](mailto:kathleen@salemart.org) no later than **January 15, 2025**. Photo and statement will be posted on the Library Foundation website.
  - Artist information needs to be sectioned into three (3) parts, on one (1) page, and include:
    - Brief Artist Biography
    - Artist Statement: Statement will be hung with artwork, and should reflect the process involved in creating that specific piece of art.
    - Label Information: Your Name, Artwork Title, Artwork Medium, Artist's Email Address, Artist's Website Address, and/or QR Code (for direct sales purposes)
  - Please answer if reproductions of the work are available or if the piece is for sale. (Note: City of Salem does not allow prices to be posted on exhibit labels.)
- Exact delivery dates for artwork TBD, Kathy will contact selected artists with more information.

**Sales:** City of Salem does not allow prices to be posted or items sold on the Library premises. Any sales are to be offsite and are the direct responsibility of the artist. If your piece is sold, immediately notify Kathy via email at [kathleen@salemart.org](mailto:kathleen@salemart.org) so that a sold mark may be placed on the label. All sold pieces will remain on display for the duration of the exhibit and may be picked up by the new owners at the end of the regional library tour.