



# YELLOW FISH

## To Stay Alive // You Must Be Live

Festival VI

### OPEN CALL

The sixth Yellow Fish Festival, **To Stay Alive // You Must be Live**, uses the specific field of Durational Performance as a means to support methods of staying alive in our present times.

Yellow Fish Durational Performance Art Festival welcomes artists of all mediums who use time as concept and material in actions and ideas to apply for Festival VI. This year we will additionally focus on artists exploring duration in experimental video and film.

**Selected artists will comprise a cohort, participating in a collective experience emphasizing and expanding upon Care methodologies in respect of the times and in response to our festival theme: To Stay Alive // You Must be Live. Artists will collaborate with curators, introduced below, to design a long-form engagement with the festival in consideration of their durational practice.**

Yellow Fish will work with each selected artist over the course of a year to initiate digital experiments, gather & process through a residency period, and present in site-specific live forms. The festival development and programming will coexist across three seasonal phases outlined below.\*

### Curators

YF is happy to introduce two guest curators, Eleanor Kipping (NYC) and Rana San (Seattle, US), who will collaborate alongside Babette Pendleton to work with selected artists to co-curate a long-term festival including remote and in-person programming. As an artist driven festival, curators and staff will enter into a long-form durational engagement, infusing the administrative sides of the festival with similar thematic explorations as the artists, and dedicating their time and actions to practicing and expanding upon Care Methodologies amongst one another.

### Timeline

The festival includes three central phase points throughout the year between **October 2020 and June 2021**. Artists will be expected to commit to **at least** two of the three seasonal phases. The specifics of the timeline, artist fees, and additional information will be agreed upon acceptance.

\*Phases will be subject to adaptation and available to change depending on the individual needs of the artists and the on-going COVID-19 pandemic.

## Phases

Festival VI



### Phase 1 // URL: FALL

Artists will engage in digital experiments, exploring virtual technologies and analog subversions in tandem with their practice to communicate and share with audiences remotely. Such ideas could be (but not limited to) online studio visits, online performances, a blog, talks, radio stations, reading club, postcards or letters etc. Artists will work with the curators on an individual basis to build a platform for this experiment alongside selected themes. Additionally artists will participate in online programming with the cohort.



### Phase 2 // RESIDENCY: WINTER

The cohort is invited to participate in a residency period slated for January. The residency length will be determined by the participating artists. A minimum of 4 days and a maximum of 3 weeks is available. The residency will include housing, studio access, and will be located on a rural property. The residency period will act as a moment to gather as a group, reflect the progress of the festival thus far, generate ideas, begin production planning for the spring phase, and an opportunity to participate in a process of individual project development, group critique, and artist driven workshops.



### Phase 3 // IRL: SPRING

Participants will actualize their physical performances inside [153 COFFEY](#), a multidisciplinary, artist-led studio dedicated to exploring the dramatic potential of constructed space through performance, film and design. The studio is located on a cobblestone street in Red Hook, New York. The main floor is a 7000SF open plan with skylights and windows, 15' ceilings, exposed brick walls, heavy timber columns and beams, plywood finished floor, and an additional full size storage cellar. The performance schedule, audiences, and technical parameters will be determined by considerations such as COVID-19, travel restrictions at that time, and other factors. We will be prepared to also produce more locally with each artist if that is a better option given circumstances and possible restrictions.



## Care Methodologies

Festival VI

Our vision as a curatorial team inside YF VI is to reinvision the traditional definition of Care by providing the impetus for action and growth; an aliveness of sorts. To initiate the conversation, YF curators have constructed a list of action driven ideas that support our notions of Care and provide a framework for artists to expand and build upon while responding to the theme: To Stay Alive /| You Must be Live. With these specific frameworks in mind, Care will remain a constant thread informing interactions and general engagement throughout the festival, informing on-going discussion, programming, and project development throughout the year.

- > Generate sustainable protest
- > Emphasize awareness of self & others
- > Dismantle colonized instincts and legacies
- > Transcend boundaries of discipline and medium
- > Awaken erotic understanding
- > Protect our environment
- > Strengthen empathetic interdependence
- > Invoke play with risk

## About \

**Yellow Fish** aims to bring awareness to the significance and study of time through cultural practices and artistic mediums, while facilitating community involvement in the historical and contemporary thought surrounding Durational Performance.

**Yellow Fish Festival** provides an organized platform for innovation and experimental curation of Durational Performance that supports the exploration of time in constructed actions and ideas. The adaptable festival format supports inquiry within movement, sound, taste, clothing, language, environment, and time as concept and material in performance.

The festival provides support for professional local, national, and international artists to gather, generate, and present duration-based performance in diverse venues and spaces. An extension of the festival is a digital archive of research, writings, reflections, and documentation of past artists, presenters, and curators.

Yellow Fish is currently run by Babette DeLafayette Pendleton.

## History \

Under the direction of [Alice Gosti](#) (Italy/Seattle), Yellow Fish presented four festivals from **2013-2017** which aimed to **present Durational Performances lasting a minimum of an hour and a maximum of 48 hours.**

**In 2018**, under the new leadership of [Babette DeLafayette Pendleton](#), Yellow Fish presented its fifth festival. Artistic/curatorial direction and administrative support took place in collaboration with Jillayne Hunter, Marlys Yvonne, and Jessa Carter. **The festival altered its core curation by placing an emphasis on time that could be of any length. This broke through the constraint that durational work inherently means long.** The festival's curation included music, film, food, and fashion with the aim to integrate and represent these mediums within a Durational Performance platform.

**Beginning in 2019**, under the umbrella of the [MICA MFA Curatorial Practice program](#), Babette utilized the program's resources to interrogate the purpose of Yellow Fish, re-envisioning its viability as a platform for Durational Performance Art. **This intensive period focused on ways to include space for curatorial investigations rooted in artistic experimentation, research-driven exhibitions, archiving practices, sustainable collaborations, and audience engagement.**

**In 2020**, Festival VI seeks to deepen the commitment to supporting methods of sustainable care while simultaneously refining the impact of Durational Performance in the larger context of the Live Art and Performance Art fields. Babette DeLafayette Pendleton will be joined by [Eleanor Kipping](#) (NYC) and [Rana San](#) (Seattle) in curating this year's festival.

## Additional Information \

**Contact:** Babette Pendleton – [yellowfishfestival@gmail.com](mailto:yellowfishfestival@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.yffestival.com](http://www.yffestival.com)

**Past Press:** [MAI Journal](#), [City Arts 2018](#), [City Arts 2014](#), [The Stranger 2014](#), [The Stranger](#)

**Video:** [2018 Festival Reel](#)

# YF VI Application – To Stay Alive /| You Must be Live

The application must be submitted through our form [HERE](#).

Please keep in mind that while filling in the form your responses cannot be saved.

**The Application deadline is September 1 at Midnight (EST)**

**DEADLINE EXTENDED TO SEPT 7**



## Application Materials

Please submit the following:

1. Artist Statement and/or Bio *[File Upload: PDF, Video, Audio]*
2. Website or Portfolio *[Short answer]*
3. Work Samples  
Submit up to five samples of past work that feel most relevant to Yellow Fish.  
Please include title, year, medium, duration if applicable. *[File Upload: PDF, Image, Audio]*

## Application Questions

Please answer the questions below to the best of your ability. Feel free to contribute in whatever format and length that feels most natural. This is an opportunity for us to understand your work, ideas, and personality. If anything is not applicable then simply write n/a.

1. What does the theme "To Stay Alive /| You Must be Live" mean to you? *[Long answer]*
2. What is your relationship to time? How does your work involve time? What is the interest to explore it durationally? *[Long answer]*
3. What does care mean and look like to you? How do you want to develop, explore, challenge, or expand your definition of care throughout the year? *[Long answer]*
4. Given the uncertainty of the future, how are you thinking about audience engagement? Performance? Adaptability in your practice or within a particular piece? *[Long answer]*
5. What are your hopes, desires, and needs from the Yellow Fish Festival? What are your questions or concerns? *[Long answer]*

## Project Proposal

Based on the theme and curatorial vision, expand upon your thoughts inside the proposal:

1. Describe in detail what you would like to work on while in collaboration with YF and why you want to work in this medium/discipline. This proposal can include a finished work you would like to revisit/expand, a new work to develop inside the year, programming ideas. This can be submitted in the form of a written statement, video, or audio upload. *[File Upload: PDF, Video, Audio]*
2. Please share examples of your proposal. This can be in the form of research, photos, audio, video, sketches, writing, rehearsal, iterative documentation, etc. For video/film samples, please provide a screening link and password below or in an attached PDF. *[File Upload: PDF, Audio, Image]*
3. Project proposal video/film URL with password if applicable. *[Long answer]*
4. How would a residency help you in your professional practice at this moment? *[Long answer]*
5. How might you envision exploring your project in digital space? *[Long answer]*
6. Consider the three phases proposed this year. Which phases would you desire to be a part of? *[Checkboxes]*
7. Please indicate in the email if you wish to receive feedback on your application. *[Yes / No]*

**| Please feel free to email us with any questions you might have regarding Festival VI or the application |**

[yellowfishfestival@gmail.com](mailto:yellowfishfestival@gmail.com)