ABOUT DEBTFAIR
Debtfair is an ongoing artistic campaign dedicated to exploring the relationship between economic inequality in the art market and artists’ increasing debt burdens. Debtfair is a project of Occupy Museums (a direct action art group that grew out of the Occupy Wall Street Movement in 2011) and is supported by core artists Tal Beery (NY), Imani Jacqueline Brown (LA), Noah Fischer (NY), Kenneth Pietrobono (NY) Arthur Polendo (NY) and Gabriella Szpunt (NY).
occupymuseums.org • debtfair.org • debtfair@gmail.com

ABOUT 516 ARTS
516 ARTS is a nonprofit, contemporary art museum in the center of Downtown Albuquerque that celebrates thought-provoking art in the here and now. Its mission is to connect contemporary artists and diverse audiences. 516 ARTS presents relevant exhibitions and public programs, which feature a mix of local, national and international artists, inspiring curiosity, risk-taking and creative experimentation.
516art.org • info@516arts.org

ABOUT CURRENCY
Currency is an exhibition of local, national and international artists who, through a range of media, reflect on our relationship with money and materialism. Currency invites audiences to re-examine various elements of contemporary economic systems as social constructs, as mythologies, and as complex frameworks that often determine how societies value money, time, art and progress. It asks viewers to consider not only the perceptions of how the circulation of currency impacts the economy but how money impacts creativity. What is the value of art in a society powered by commodification?

DEBTFAIR
OPEN CALL
516 ARTS
Albuquerque, New Mexico
How does your economic reality affect your art?

DEADLINE: October 5, 2018
EXHIBITION:
Nov. 17, 2018 – Jan. 26, 2019
debtfair.org • 516arts.org
DEBTFAIR IS AN ONGOING ARTISTIC CAMPAIGN
to expose the relationship between economic inequality in the art
market and artists’ growing debt burdens. Occupy Museums and 516
ARTS invite New Mexico-based artists to collectively exhibit their
artwork within the context of their economic realities. Visual artists of
all backgrounds are encouraged to participate.

Artists’ profiles will be collected through an open call process, which
includes a questionnaire about artists’ economic lives. All artists’
profiles will be displayed digitally within the exhibition and on debtfair.
org. In addition, a group of artists with shared conditions will be
selected for physical display at 516 ARTS. The final installation will be
exhibited at 516 ARTS as part of a larger exhibition entitled Currency
on view November 17, 2018 through January 26, 2019.

Artworks selected for physical display in Debtfair will be for sale, but
not in the normal way that art is sold. Mirroring the way debts are sold
and traded, artworks in Debtfair will be sold in “bundles”—groups
of artworks representing shared conditions among their makers.
Proceeds will be shared among the participating artists. Through this
exchange, Debtfair connects private debts and the aspirational art
market.

Being in debt often elicits feelings of shame and social isolation.
Debtfair begins with the premise that nearly everyone in our society
carries personal debt; therefore, debt can also unite us. If we highlight
the hidden layers of artists’ lives, debt can prove to be an empowering
medium.

Please contact info@516arts.org with any questions.

TO BEGIN YOUR SUBMISSION
VISIT 516ARTS.ORG/DEBTFAIR

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

EXHIBITION:
Debtfair New Mexico as part of 516 ARTS’ exhibition Currency will
open November 17, 2018 and will be on view through January 26,
2019. All work on display will remain on view until the close of the
exhibition.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday, October 5, 2018

ARTISTS ARE NOTIFIED: Friday, October 26, 2018

ARTWORK DROP-OFF:
Saturday, November 3 & Monday, November 5, 2018, 12-5pm. Hand
delivery to 516 ARTS, 516 Central Avenue, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
For artists more than 100 miles from Albuquerque please inquire
about delivery options.

OPENING RECEPTION: Saturday, November 17, 2018, 6-8pm

ARTWORK PICK-UP: January 29 – February 5, 2019, 12-5pm

ELIGIBILITY:
All New Mexico area artists are eligible to submit original artwork for
this exhibition. There is no fee to apply. Artists do not need to be in
debt to participate. The subject of the artwork can be about anything
and does not have to address debt. All artworks will be displayed in
the museum, either digitally on a screen or as physical objects. The
objects selected must be delivered ready to hang, on a rigid support
and no larger than 14 (w) x 24 (h) x 3 (d) inches.

HOW TO BEGIN YOUR PROFILE:
In order to participate, artists are required to create a profile on the
Debtfair website (named or anonymously) and answer questions
regarding their economic conditions by October 5, 2018.

VISIT DEBTFAIR.ORG TO LEARN MORE:
• View existing profiles
• View previous debtfair projects
• Read our FAQ’s on the submission process