



Bhag Meeting Groups

www.bhag.net

format, topics, and tips

The Bhag Meeting Group is a format for self-organizing groups of artists or authors. The vision is a practical discussion group, sharing working insights and informative life experiences in all facets of artmaking: aesthetic, technical, conceptual, and administrative. Like a book club or study group, the Bhag Meeting Group offers artists an opportunity to share insights and talk shop in an intimate, face-to-face setting.

format

- Meet monthly, for a session one to two hours in length.
- Each session led by a moderator, selected from among group members at the previous session.
- Rotate moderator position session by session.
- Moderator invites members to introduce themselves: name, media, current focus.
- Moderator asks each member for one discussion topic, creating list of member names and topics to serve as the agenda.
- Once the list is assembled, the moderator invites each each member, in turn, to describe their topic and invites the group to discuss, ensuring time is allowed for discussion of all topics. Discussion is open, but the moderator may solicit input from quiet members or limit monologues by talkative members.
- If topics are exhausted early, the moderator makes a second round of requests for topics followed by discussion as before. If topics still are exhausted within the hour, the moderator introduces a topic from the ready-topics list.
- At the end of the session, the date, location, and moderator for the next session will be agreed by consensus. The meeting is adjourned, and members may depart or mingle.

sample topics

- Ask for input on solving an artistic problem: aesthetic, technical, conceptual, administrative.
- Share discoveries and real-life experiences that might be helpful to others.
- Share examples of artworks—completed or in progress—for critical feedback.
- Any member may volunteer an instructional workshop to other members which, with consent of the whole group, may be scheduled to occur in place of topic discussions during a regular session.

ready topics (when other topics are exhausted)

- Where and how to show.
- Where and how to learn new techniques.
- Where and how to get materials.
- Pricing your art.
- Work habits and methods.
- Balancing time, money art, and life (but no griping!).

tips on making your Bhag Meeting Group successful

- Keep it practical. Share useful information and you will always have a useful group.
- Keep it down to earth. Only talk philosophy if your philosophy is central to how and why you do your work.
- Focus on how to do and show work, not on the conventional image of "being an artist".
- Be open. Generously share your knowledge, and welcome the ideas of others.

For answers to your questions about the Bhag Meeting Group, please contact editor@bhag.net.