

# ***The Messenger* — Contributor Guidelines**

*A Journal of Independent Culture & Community*

## **What Is It?**

*The Messenger* is a new, free newspaper published by Independent Arts & Media, producer of Expo for the Artist & Musician, Newsdesk.org, and other media and dialogue projects that strengthen the culture of democracy by supporting independent voices.

## **Origins**

*The Messenger* spins off the newspaper of the annual Expo for the Artist & Musician. Since 2000, the Expo newspaper has covered arts, music, performance and media techniques, methods, issues, financing and more for independent, creative-minded folks of all stripes.

## **Philosophy & Focus**

For this new venture, we're expanding the publication beyond just "the arts" to focus much more broadly on our fundamental concerns of cultural vitality and diversity, DIY democracy, civic participation, individual liberty, community responsibility, local self-reliance and social awareness. Some things to keep in mind as you formulate your pitch:

- *The Messenger* covers a way of life (deep) rather than a lifestyle (shallow). We'd prefer to avoid trend stories, simple things you can do to save the planet, drum-circle testimonials and the like. You've plumbed the abyss and lived to tell the tale. We're eager to read all about it.
- Give us the nitty gritty. The ways and means AND the whys and wherefores. All the technique in the world is meaningless if the aspiration is hollow.
- Punk not as genre, but as method and intent. Art as intervention and revelation. Media and dialogue as the instruments of truth, knowledge, conscience and liberty. Radical diversity as the foundation of democracy. The rejection of false political choices and sham consumerism.

## **Deadlines & Topic Details**

We seek DIY-focused articles, features, interviews, profiles, previews, resource listings, essays, project reports, eyewitness accounts and more for two upcoming issues of *The Messenger*:

The Fall 2006 edition is linked to the Seventh Annual Expo for the Artist & Musician, which happens on Sept. 16 at SomArts. TOPICS: cultural and creative independence in the 21st century, "guerrilla" and unauthorized arts, local venues/movements, skillsharing, youth, etc.

— *Publication date: Late August*

— *Submissions deadline: ASAP!*

The Winter 2006 edition will focus on the Nov. 2 elections and democracy in general, local to global. TOPICS: civic participation and influencing the political process beyond merely voting, signing an online petition or showing up at a protest march.

— *Publication date: Late October*

— *Submissions deadline: September 20*

**Compensation:** Think about it: A free newspaper, 20,000 copies, 16 pages, packed with boss typography, sweet design and free-thinkin' content. We ain't doin' this to get rich ...

**Contact:** *E-mail your pitch and writing samples (three max) to: [messenger@artsandmedia.net](mailto:messenger@artsandmedia.net)*  
*Via postal courier: The Messenger, PMB 821, 601 Van Ness Ave., Ste. E, SF CA 94102*