

EXHIBITION POLICY

New England Regional Art Museum's annual exhibition program features curated exhibitions from the Permanent Collections, Featured Artist Exhibitions, Guest Exhibitions and Community Exhibitions.

The program aims to display exhibitions of local, state, national and international prominence. A regular changing program of outstanding visual arts, crafts and design exhibitions (either historical or contemporary in content) will be displayed in association with education and public programs developed and/or presented by the Art Museum.

PRINCIPLES

The aim of NERAM's exhibition program is to engage the general public, to develop audiences and to provide an opportunity to build partnerships with the broader community.

NERAM aims to design and deliver accessible, inspiring and enjoyable opportunities for learners to explore new ideas and learn new skills, improve understanding which reinforces the art museum's position as an important regional learning resource.

The Art Museum encourages and supports a proactive, innovative, and imaginative approach to programs and activities.

NERAM encourages a diversity of views and interpretations.

EXHIBITION CONTENT:

A balanced program will be both broad and responsive and will aim to cater for the needs and interests of all age groups.

Permanent Collections:

NERAM holds one of the largest and most significant collections of art in regional Australia.

- The Howard Hinton Collection comprises 1375 works of Australian art created during the period 1880 to 1948. It includes paintings by William Dobell, Adrian Feint, Elioth Gruner, Hans Heysen, Margaret Preston, Thea Proctor, Tom Roberts, Ethel Spowers, Arthur Streeton and the Lindsay family.
- The Chandler Coventry collection consists of over 149 works and strongly reflects the art movements of the 1960s and 1970s. The focus is on expressionist and abstractionist painters with some figurative artists and includes paintings by Ralph Balson, Peter Booth, Gunter Christmann, Janet Dawson, Elaine Haxton, Michael Taylor, Dick Watkins and Brett Whiteley.
- NERAM has continued the legacy of Hinton and Coventry by acquiring works of art by Australian artists in the NERAM Collection which now numbers over 2,755 works.

NERAM continues to emphasise its role as a dynamic educational and learning resource for the entire community and promotes its collections as a foundation for lifelong learning. The Collections enrich the imagination, encourage new ideas, increase understanding, challenge prejudice and foster critical thinking.

To this end, at least one gallery is reserved for works from the Howard Hinton Collection throughout the year. One more gallery is reserved for works from the Chandler Coventry and NERAM Collections throughout the year.

Featured Artist Exhibitions

NERAM's objective in the Featured Artist program is to showcase emerging and established artists and to provide an opportunity for visual artists to promote, market and exhibit their work.

The Featured Artist program focuses on local and regional artists of excellence in contemporary art practice. Solo or retrospective exhibitions will be organised and/or shown on the recommendation of the Director. The artist's work should be innovative, reflect the highest standards in concept, style and technique and have regional significance. Such exhibitions provide an individual artist with professional and public acknowledgment of career excellence and achievement and shall therefore only be awarded to artists meriting the acknowledgment.

Potential featured artists must provide a written exhibition proposal with images to the Director for approval. Artists, curators and others involved in the development of projects are encouraged to discuss ideas with Gallery staff prior to making a submission.

Guest Exhibitions

As a regional gallery, NERAM needs to focus on exhibitions that provide access to the regions to high quality exhibitions drawn from collections from around Australia.

NERAM is a venue for exhibitions which

- Provide, explore, celebrate and foster tolerance and understanding
- Present the full breadth of arts activity
- Investigate cultural and social issues
- Are adventurous in tackling topical contemporary issues
- Acknowledge the importance of research to underpin the credibility of programs
- Showcase excellence in contemporary arts practice

Community Exhibitions.

The primary purpose of community-focused exhibitions and their associated public programs is part of the ongoing strategy of NERAM to build audiences and strong connections with community groups in order to engage the broader public in arts participation.

Public programs at NERAM position the facility as a destination for the entire region and build on its role as a vital cultural gathering place where people of all ages, backgrounds and traditions feel welcome to participate and to return.

EXHIBITION PROPOSALS

Any member of staff or community can propose an exhibition project. Proposals will be assessed by the Director. In selecting exhibitions to be included in the program (and in addition to policy guidelines) priority will be given to projects which:

- Promote an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual arts
- Are curatorially sound and display thorough research and development
- Deal with issues of local, national or international relevance
- Provide opportunities for students and teachers to develop their understanding of, and involvement in, the visual arts and crafts
- Have potential to integrate with public programs and activities of the New England Regional Art Museum.

BEST PRACTICE

The principle of best practice applies to all aspects of the Art Museum's planning, programs and management. The Art Museum will ensure best practice applies to:

- The display of all objects and works, including those on loan from other institutions, community groups and individuals in conditions appropriate to established conservation, security and physical and environment requirements. No object shall be placed on display if in the opinion of the appropriate curator, conservator or other relevant professional, the condition of that object would be seriously impaired.
- The appropriate identification, where an object on display is not the original.
- Its dealing with artists ensuring respect and sensitivity for moral rights issues and industry codes of practice.
- Ensuring that professional staff placing an object on display respect the wishes of the non-English speaking background cultural group(s) to which that object belongs. Consultants from the cultures concerned should be involved in the development of an exhibition.

Gallery staff will not exercise censorship in the selection of exhibitions. Art works that have not been subject to Federal or State prohibition should not be excluded from a public gallery on moral, political, racial, religious, sexist, language or other sensitive grounds alone. Nor should art works be included on these grounds alone, whatever pressure is brought to bear by groups or individuals.