

ART EXHIBITS AT RUSSELL LIBRARY

Art exhibits featuring the work of local visual artists are important to Russell Library's cultural mission: the library as a learning, entertainment, and resource-rich center where different backgrounds, interests and values can meet and form bonds thus strengthening the fabric of the community; a place for the enjoyment and edification of this community and its visitors.

There are display areas throughout the library, with a large, high ceiling space on the second floor, and a high traffic area in the main lobby. Groups of three or more artists may use the entire space; individual artists generally use one-half the space, with two exhibits shown simultaneously, one on each floor. (Individual artists may request the use of both floors, in the case of a large body of work.) The total wall space on the first floor is about 42 linear feet ; on the second floor, 60 linear feet. The library can accommodate some sculpture atop 33" high shelving units in a naturally lit area on the second floor.

Eligibility

Artists living and working in Connecticut are eligible to apply, with priority being given to those living and working in the Middletown area. First-time exhibitors, individuals and groups are welcome.

How To Apply

An application can be found on our website. https://www.russelllibrary.org/news_events/displays.html
Images of some of the work you intend to show must be submitted for review; see the application for details. Exhibits are considered and selected by the Art Exhibits Committee.

Criteria for review include:

- Technical and artistic quality
- A coherent theme
- Contribution to a lively and varied program for the year

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

- Exhibits are displayed for a minimum of one month and may be extended to two months by mutual consent of the library and the artist.
- All artwork should be framed and made ready for hanging with: small screw eyes and wire on the back for hanging, and a label affixed to the back with the artist's name, title of the piece, media and year completed.
- The Library sends out press releases to local media, both print and on-line. The artist must provide a brief statement and 2 - 3 high-resolution jpgs (minimum 800 x 600 pixels and/or 1 MB) for this purpose.
- Artists are responsible for hanging and taking down their exhibits on the agreed upon dates, with some assistance available from an Art Exhibit Committee member. The artist will work with library staff in placing the artwork to develop an effective exhibit. The actual hanging and removal of the exhibit will be the responsibility of the artist.
- Please provide a label on each piece with a title, date, medium, year completed and a number that corresponds to your price list. We recommend a computer label format like Avery labels 8871 (2" x 3-1/2") or another white matte label. Apply double-sided tape to the back, which adheres well to the walls. If you need assistance, please contact us.
- The exhibitor must be identified by name within the display. Russell Library will provide signage.
- There is no charge for the use of the space. The library shall not be responsible for handling any money from the sale of items displayed. The artist is encouraged to provide a price list and an email address for prospective buyers; the library will post this list for the artist. Any items sold during a display period shall remain on display until all items are scheduled to be removed. If works are sold while on exhibit here, the library accepts a donation of 15% of the proceeds.
- Artists may send announcements/invitations, and/or provide for an opening reception at their own expense. The date, time and place for said reception will be mutually agreed upon by the artist and Russell Library. The Library has limited insurance covering work on display. The Library is not responsible for any losses not covered by insurance.
- The exhibit areas are open to the public only during the regular open hours of the library unless by special arrangement.
- The exhibitor shall remove the exhibit promptly on the agreed upon date. The library has the right to remove exhibit materials if they aren't picked up by the agreed upon date. Exhibit materials may be disposed of if not claimed within 30 days.

LIMITATIONS

All display spaces within the public library are open to adults and children of all ages and sensibilities. Exhibit areas may also be passageways for employees and for members of the public of all ages to reach some library services. Therefore, displays should be appropriate in scale, material, form and content for the library environment. For example, the Library discourages material containing images that include significant elements of sexually explicit imagery or graphic depictions of violence. Responsibility for acceptance or rejection of collections and individual works for exhibit rests with the Library Director.

EXHIBIT POLICY & PURPOSE

Exhibit areas are available on an equitable basis regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use. The Library endeavors to present a broad spectrum of opinion and viewpoints. The Library does not endorse content nor imply agreement or disagreement with beliefs or viewpoints expressed in the exhibits or displays. The Library does not accept responsibility for ensuring that all points of view are represented in any single display.

Russell Library reserves the right to determine at its sole discretion what materials will be displayed as well as scheduling, duration, and assignment of display spaces. The Library has the right to review the materials in advance. The Library's decision on what will be displayed in its exhibit spaces shall be final.

