

Kelowna Art Gallery

Exhibitions Policy

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework and set of parameters for the development and presentation of temporary exhibitions at the Kelowna Art Gallery (hereafter called the Gallery). All components of this policy are intended to be complementary and in keeping with other Gallery policies. This policy should be subject to periodic review.

Context

Historical Legacy

The Kelowna Art Gallery was launched in 1977 in a small space in the same building as the Kelowna Museum. In 1996 the Gallery opened in its own dedicated space on Water Street and was able to launch a proper exhibition program in the large-sized Treadgold/Bullock exhibition space. The City of Kelowna launched the so-called Cultural District in 2002, of which the Kelowna Art Gallery is largely considered the cornerstone institution. The Gallery applied for and received a “B” status designation with the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board in the year 2000. We received our “A” status in 2006. The Gallery maintains a national network, through email, the distribution of our publications, and professional memberships, with other public galleries across Canada. We work cooperatively and collaboratively with these other institutions, lending and borrowing works of art and entire circulating exhibitions, as budgets permits and appropriate occasions arise.

The Gallery has a strong history of well-attended public programs that are tailored to serve the diverse communities of the city of Kelowna and the region of the Okanagan Valley.

The Contemporary Scene

The Kelowna Art Gallery mounts about five to six exhibitions per year in the Treadgold/Bullock Gallery and about six in the Mardell G. Reynolds Gallery. The Gallery also tries to program the outdoor Rotary Courtyard space throughout the year as much as possible. The Gallery sets out to produce an accompanying publication to accompany every exhibition organized in-house. Our main commitment is to contemporary art and artists, both in terms of our exhibition programming and our role and relationship with local artists. We aim for an exhibition program that, over time, is reflective of the vast variety of contemporary art practice. We set out to show work by a range of artists, both established and emerging, and working in a variety of media. We try to balance group,

thematic shows, with solo exhibitions. We also have a commitment to arrange an exhibition of works from the permanent collection every few years. The Gallery wants to ensure the exhibitions have a high degree of curatorial integrity, and that they contribute to the cultural climate of the region.

Terms of Reference for the Curator

The Curator of the Gallery is responsible for laying out the exhibition schedule and making decisions on the shows that will be included, in consultation with the Executive Director. The Curator must remain abreast of current issues in the field of contemporary art, and should maintain an active national network of curatorial and artist contacts, as well as conducting on-going research through internet, publications and travel so that the Gallery is well-served in his/her selections for exhibitions. The Curator must also foster good, supportive relations with local artists and assist them in promoting their work outside the region. The Curator should actively pursue opportunities for partnerships with other galleries, publishers, etc. for collaborative projects.

The Curator is in charge of all aspects of installation of the Gallery exhibitions, assisted in this by the Curatorial Assistant/Registrar, and the Gallery Preparator/Technician. These are the only staff members who are to handle the works of art.

Principles

At the forefront of the Kelowna Art Gallery's activities and projects is an understanding of and commitment to its overall role as a public institution committed to developing connections between art and our communities. The Gallery must strive to remain relevant and dynamic in its examination of visual art, and to mount a broad range of exhibitions.

The Kelowna Art Gallery is committed to the principle that its exhibitions support the study and enjoyment of contemporary art. Contemporary ideas that affect our lives now are the primary focus. This does not prevent the Gallery from mounting exhibitions of historical art from time to time, but an emphasis should be on new interpretations of this art from a contemporary perspective.

Guidelines for implementation

Commitment to Excellence

The Gallery's exhibitions should stimulate intellectual inquiry, capture visitors' imaginations, and encourage debate and discussion.

Along with the permanent collection and the publication program, the exhibition program is the most important aspect of the Gallery's activities. More than anything else the exhibition program ought to maintain the reputation of the Gallery as an important and vital cultural institution within the overall network of Canadian public art galleries. We must also strive at all times to recognize, respect, and engage with the different perspectives of our audiences and communities.

Willingness to Take Risks

The Gallery is supportive of artistic exploration and experimentation. The Gallery supports innovative new ideas that will engage our communities.

The Gallery is committed to the consideration of unconventional presentations and interpretations of works of art. The Gallery welcomes the opportunity to address challenging and difficult themes and issues.

Effective Use of Resources

The Gallery will utilize the knowledge and skills of its staff members to produce the richest exhibition program possible. The Gallery will work to create appropriate collaborations with other individuals/groups for exhibition projects.

The Gallery will seek other sources of funding than its usual government grants to help offset the costs of special exhibition projects. No sponsorship shall determine the nature of an exhibition, however.

Exhibitions at the Kelowna Art Gallery

Exhibitions in the Treadgold/Bullock Gallery

The Treadgold/Bullock Gallery is the Gallery's largest exhibition space, and it is fully climate controlled. This is the space that can receive touring shows as it meets all national museum standards. Due to its large size, it is best suited to group exhibitions, but this is not proscriptive.

Exhibitions in the Mardell G Reynolds Gallery

The Mardell Reynolds exhibition space is small and not suited to large-scale works. It is also not climate-controlled. Therefore it can be programmed as a project space, showing

recent works by interesting and provocative artists of any age, region or stature. It is best suited, but not restricted to, solo exhibitions.

Exhibitions in the Rotary Courtyard

Working within available budgets, the Curator needs to devise on-going exhibition programs that are suited to the outdoor environment of the courtyard space. Ideally, these should change a few times per year.

Exhibitions of the Permanent Collection

Ideally, an exhibition drawing on works from the permanent collection should be mounted every few years. If funds have been received for acquisitions through the Canada Council, one of the terms of their grant is that the works are shown within a few years of their purchase.

Submissions by Artists or Freelance Curators

The Curator should respond to any proposals or submissions for exhibitions received by artists or other curators in a timely and polite manner. The guidelines for submissions are posted on the Gallery's website. At no time should original works being dropped off be received by Gallery reception staff.

Ethics

The Gallery conducts all its affairs in accordance with the Code of Ethics published by the Canadian Museums Association (CMA). The Gallery should avoid any activities that could be construed as actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest.

Therefore, in terms of exhibitions, the Gallery should not exhibit works by artists who are closely related to gallery staff members.

Fees and Copyright

The Gallery pays full CARFAC exhibition fees to every artist exhibiting work in the Gallery, according to the schedule agreed upon among CARFAC, CAMDO and the CMA.

If visitors are interested in purchasing works by a contemporary artist on exhibition at the Gallery, they are referred by staff to the artist (staff will give the artist the person's

contact information) and/or the artist's dealer. The gallery does not participate in the sale of works of art from the exhibitions in the exhibition program.

The Gallery will obtain the exhibition right at the time of purchase or donation of a work of art for the permanent collection. The Gallery will have copyright holders sign a permission of limited license to allow the Gallery to reproduce a given work of art in Gallery publications or website, or to distribute to media for publicity purposes for an exhibition.

The Gallery will enter into contracts with all artists involved in temporary exhibitions at the Gallery (not from the permanent collection). All works of art on loan to the Gallery shall be fully insured at the Gallery's expense while out of possession of the lender.

The Gallery will retain copyright for all written materials printed in its publications, whether written by staff members or freelance writers/curators.

Exhibition Assessment and Evaluation

At the close of each exhibition, staff will review the visitor comment logs, both hard copy and computer-generated. The Gallery is committed to being an institution that is open to public comment and input. A project evaluation will be completed, as per Gallery usual practice. The Curator will engage in self-reflection in considering audience reaction and/or reactions from colleagues as to the overall quality and appropriateness of the show, its catalogue, and the details of execution of each. This practice should inform the selection/devising of future exhibitions.

Approved by Board of Directors - December 18, 2008

