

AGNES ETHERINGTON ART CENTRE AT QUEEN'S

EXHIBITION POLICY

28 July 2014

The Agnes Etherington Art Centre is a research-intensive professional art museum and a hub of campus and community engagement for the visual arts. We fulfill the Mandate and Mission of the gallery by promoting and stimulating learning, interest and enjoyment of art through a considered annual program of temporary exhibitions. These reflect the quality and character of our collections and ongoing research, and are relevant to our context in Kingston and in the research and teaching environment of Queen's University. Our curatorial work aims to produce engaging, informative aesthetic experiences for diverse audiences that cultivate new understanding of visual art, artists, expressive form and its histories. We create innovative exhibitions and programs that draw connections between great artistic traditions and the vital expression of contemporary life, and link global issues and tendencies with local experience.

In crafting the exhibition program, complementarity of concurrent exhibitions is taken into account, and representation of regional, national and international practices is balanced across program years. Agnes Etherington Art Centre exhibitions reflect the society of which we are a part in their representation of gender, ethnicity, sexuality, ability and values. Exhibitions address our location at a leading university: we aim to further the academic goals of Queen's University, and serve the aspirations of the city of Kingston and the region of southeastern Ontario. In our exhibition program, we value the potential of art to progressively transform and contribute to perceptions of social and political realities. We thus develop challenging exhibitions that critically convey diverse and contested conditions, advance scholarship and extend the scope of artistic practices.

Our exhibitions are developed synergistically with our acquisitions and collection-development strategies. Normally, incoming acquisitions will be exhibited within three years of entering the collection.

Exhibitions reflect available resources—including funds and expertise—and programs are designed to support the sustainability of our mix of funding resources including arts councils and like agencies at federal, provincial and municipal levels, foundations, private patrons, corporate sponsors and endowed funds.

The Agnes Etherington Art Centre develops a spectrum of in-house generated exhibitions, and presents borrowed and occasional guest-curated shows. In addition, we circulate exhibitions, and we develop exhibitions in collaborative partnerships with peer galleries or other institutions to disseminate and integrate our work with the wider field. We also develop occasional off-site exhibition projects, which extend our presence and allow us to explore new meanings. Students and faculty regularly contribute to our research and exhibition programs, deepening the scope of our work and supporting inter- and intra-disciplinary and experiential learning.

The Director is responsible for the artistic direction of the exhibition program as a key component of the Agnes Etherington Art Centre's public profile and service. Typically, exhibitions are planned on a two to three year cycle. Monthly programming meetings of professional staff are the key forum for discussing, assessing and shaping exhibitions. The artistic

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value and integrity, and practical viability of the exhibition program together enact leadership in the field and consistently meet or exceed best practices standards in the care, presentation and interpretation of art.

External curatorial and artistic proposals

The Agnes Etherington Art Centre accepts exhibition and program proposals on an ongoing basis. These are reviewed periodically according to our needs. We normally plan exhibitions two to three years in advance. For consideration, submit a brief outline of your proposal and documentation by e-mail under the subject line "Submission," flagged to the attention of the Director, aeac@queensu.ca. While submissions are a valued part of our research—ensuring our awareness of emerging artists, new work, innovative presentation formats, and scholarship—only a small percentage of proposals can be realized. Due to the volume of submissions, we may respond only to those aligned with our research direction and capacity.