

## EXHIBITION PRINCIPLES/PRIORITIES 2017-2020

Adam Art Gallery is the university art gallery of Victoria University of Wellington. It produces an independent programme of exhibitions, events and publications for the benefit of staff, students and the wider public. Adam Art Gallery plays an important and distinctive role as one of a number of capital city cultural institutions. It is recognised nationally and internationally as a critical platform for the presentation of art and other creative practices and the production of critical discourse on art and art history.

### EXHIBITION PRINCIPLES

*Exhibition principles will be reviewed every 3-5 years*

#### General

##### **Adam Art Gallery:**

- Is open to all art forms including projects that test and question definitions and limits.
- Presents material from any culture and historical period.
- Works with local and international artists, at all stages of their careers.
- Provides a critical platform where art and ideas can be presented and tested.
- Encourages new models of exhibition-making and curatorial practice.
- Makes its distinctive architecture a feature of its programming but is not limited to its building in devising projects that are designed to connect with audiences.
- Uses art as a means to generate creative thinking across and between disciplines.
- Is committed to connecting with audiences in ways that engage, challenge and extend them, using clear, precise and engaging communication to reach them.
- Presents a programme that, over time, is balanced, inclusive, respectful, reflexive, experimental and unafraid to grapple with difficult or challenging topics.
- Makes exhibitions that are original contributions to the history of art, with well-researched and accurate information available in a variety of formats (wall texts and labels, guides and publications, website texts, etc.)
- Has a particular mission to uncover forgotten or overlooked histories, to address gaps and omissions, bring alternative approaches to bear and offer new readings, as its contribution to the production of new histories of art.

#### Academic

##### **Adam Art Gallery:**

- Exhibits the work of Victoria's academic staff and students, but is not obliged to do so. When working with staff and students, the Gallery delivers exhibitions that fit with exhibition principles and priorities, mesh with the programme as a whole, and meet high standards of display.

- Understands its place within its university context, contributing to teaching—with hands-on opportunities for academics and students—and research—via exhibitions, public programmes and publications, and drawing on the expertise available on campus, fostering cross & inter-disciplinarity, and adhering to shared academic values.
- Contributes to Victoria’s current strategic plan by providing a striking context for public engagement where local, national, regional and global issues and practices can be showcased and different communities can interact and come together. The Gallery provides an impactful platform for the presentation of new research and is a valuable asset in the enhancement of the student experience and in connecting with alumni and benefactors.
- Specifically addresses Victoria’s distinctive themes of cultivating creative capital; enriching national culture, civil society and global citizenship; and improving health and wellbeing in our communities.
- Manages the Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection and from time to time develops exhibitions, events and publications that foster in-depth engagement with the Collection and new knowledge about its contents.
- Maintains records of its exhibition programmes in the interests of future scholarly interest in the history of its activities, the work of its staff, and the artists, curators, writers and scholars who have contributed to its programmes.

## **Professional**

### **Adam Art Gallery:**

- Instigates a programme devised by its director with advice and support from its Advisory Board. In developing this programme, the director works closely with the curator and the gallery team, as well as seeking advice and contributions from other institutions, colleagues and professionals.
- Solicits proposals from guest curators and accepts projects toured by other organisations based on their good fit with exhibition principles and priorities.
- Undertakes formal and informal peer review processes in formulating its programme and assessing the quality of its exhibitions.
- Sets high professional standards in the documentation, care, and presentation of all items that are borrowed, commissioned, transported, stored, and exhibited, to serve as a model of good practice.
- Achieves its programme with the responsible application of available resources. The Gallery actively seeks additional support to extend and deepen its impact.
- Abides by Museums Aotearoa’s Code of Ethics, the University’s policy on freedom of expression, and all other relevant codes of professional practice.
- Acknowledges the special relationship that exists between the University and mana whenua and is committed to using the Treaty of Waitangi to guide its obligations to Maori as tangata whenua and Treaty partners.
- Is a safe space where all are made welcome and where cultural, sexual, gender, differences are respected and those with disabilities are enabled. The Gallery takes responsibility to ensure that staff, volunteers, and visitors understand the codes of behaviour expected of them.

## EXHIBITION PRIORITIES 2018-2020

*Exhibition priorities will be reviewed every three years*

### **Over the next three years Adam Art Gallery will:**

- Develop exhibitions, events and publications that address Maori and Pasifika art and involve Maori and Pasifika artists.
- Showcase the VUW Art Collection in creative ways that shed new light on its contents.
- Develop an exhibition series that explores private and public collections in the region as a means to build relationships and knowledge and take advantage of works that are close at hand.
- Develop photography-based projects that are relevant to the aims and objectives of the Ronald Woolf Memorial Endowment Fund.
- Identify key events as prompts for focused programmes: (NZ Arts Festival, 2018, 2020; 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James Cook's voyages to the Pacific, 2019; 125 years since Woman's Suffrage, 2018; centenary of McCahon's birth, 2019; the Adam Art Gallery's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, 2020, etc.)
- Develop at least one exhibition as a touring project to extend the gallery's reach and prove its role as a national leader.
- Develop at least one longer-term research-led project to address an aspect of New Zealand art history.
- Exploit connections with relevant institutions nationally and internationally, including in the Asia-Pacific region (in the UAMA network or similar) to host or tour exhibitions to build capacity, share resources and extend the Gallery's reach.
- Commission new work by New Zealand artists to foster their practices and enable them to engage with the building.
- Ensure at least one project each year actively engages another discipline to foster real cross-disciplinary exchange.
- From time to time, work with guest curators/host touring exhibitions that are relevant to the programme, fit with AAG's principles and priorities and enable staff to better manage workloads.