

# SAIC Department of Exhibitions

## Updated Exhibition Parameters

### Introduction

The SAIC Department of Exhibitions is moving operations to a new gallery facility this fall located at 33 E. Washington Street. The new SAIC Galleries have 26,000 square feet of beautiful newly constructed exhibition space, including a street level gallery. As part of this move, and due to health and safety precautions as well as limited resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, gallery policies have been updated. Please familiarize yourself with these new exhibition parameters which will be in effect for the academic year Fall 2020 - Summer 2021.

### Health and Safety Restrictions in Response to Covid-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be certain restrictions on the types of artwork and exhibition display equipment used in the gallery. These limitations are in place in order to ensure the safety of our community during installation periods and while exhibitions are on view. The following **will not be allowed** in the gallery until further notice:

- Shared interfaces for visitors such as headphones, VR headsets, touchscreens, remotes, etc.
- Interactive work that requires gallery visitors to make physical contact with the work (including books, touchable sculpture, wearables, furniture, etc.) (Display of such items without interaction is allowed.)
- Work that involves gatherings, audiences, or performative interactions that break recommendations for social distancing.
- Serving of food or beverages.
- Work that requires a gallery visitor to remove their face mask.

### Restrictions on Alterations to Gallery Facilities

Due to reduced staffing, major transformations or alterations of gallery walls, floors or other infrastructure will **not be allowed**. This includes:

- Painting of gallery walls (all exhibition space will remain “gallery white”)
- Drawing or writing with any material directly on gallery walls or floors
- Installing vinyl on gallery floors
- Affixing items to walls or floors with glue or adhesives
- Building of additional walls
- Any other interventions that require labor beyond standard deinstall, patch and paint in order to restore the gallery to neutral.

### Unable to Exhibit Works that Require Regular Maintenance

Due to reduced staffing, and limitations on gallery access, we will not be exhibiting works that require regular maintenance beyond turning media on and off for regular gallery hours. This includes:

- Plants or other living creatures

- Kinetic, responsive, or programmed work that needs frequent adjustment/maintenance

### **Limited Installation Time and Support**

All exhibiting artists will be required to schedule appointments for installation during the exhibition installation period. Details on scheduling may vary for each show and will be communicated directly to installing artists. In an effort to maintain social distancing during installation periods, the time allotted to individual artists and staff support for installing artworks will be limited. **We anticipate that most artists will be allotted 1 day to install their work in the gallery.** Thus, it is recommended that all artwork is ready to hang or assemble prior to the installation period. Additionally, we encourage exhibiting artists to carefully consider the scope of the installation labor needed to present their artwork.

Within the limited time frame and limited staff resources available, it may **not** be feasible to exhibit projects that require intensive on-site installations such as 3-channel projections or projection mapping, works with large numbers of suspended or wall-hung elements, elaborate media/equipment based installations, or site specific/immersive works that have to be made or programmed on site.

Exhibitions department staff and student staff will be present during scheduled self-installation periods in order to:

- Provide basic tools and sanitation plus common installation hardware
- Provide materials and tools for: cord management, touch up painting, and other post-installation gallery clean up.
- Consultation/assistance in the installation of media equipment
- Upon request, assist with on-site installations as available (An exhibiting artist can bring 1 guest to help for large work, tasks that take multiple hands, etc.)
- Upon advanced request, and as available, the staff will install gallery infrastructure as needed to support artwork installation.

### **Prohibited Materials**

The following installation materials are prohibited for use in the gallery:

- Spray paint, spray adhesives, hair spray, or any other aerosol sprays
- Mineral spirits, turpentine, acetones or alcohol-based materials
- Adhesives on walls, floors, or gallery furniture. (All glues such as: resin, epoxy, Mod podge, wheatpaste, silicone, double sided tape, putty, etc. )
- Active casting or mixing in the galleries of resins, Bondo, urethanes, quick-set plastics
- Active use of oil-based paints or impasto paints
- Loose sand, dust, debris, glitter, micro-plastics or other such particulate material
- Particulate materials that are corrosive or harmful to breathe
- Weapons of any kind, including ammunition and gunpowder
- Microorganisms, decaying organic matter, rot
- Bodily fluids
- Fog machines
- Open flame/lit incense or candles

- Excessive volume levels and frequency

### **Art School Considerations**

Exhibiting artists are responsible for checking the Art School Considerations checklist. If a project involves any of the items on the checklist, artists should inform an Exhibitions Department staff member who can advise on best practices and bring the project before the ASC committee as needed.

Please review the [Art School Considerations Checklist](#)

### **Gallery Authorization Needed Prior to Install**

In addition to the ASC checklist, if a project includes any of the following items, artists should consult with Exhibitions Department staff in advance of installation:

- Dirt, organic material, or debris (Must be store bought and pest free)
- Upholstery (Must be pest free)--needs to be inspected by Staff
- Vessels or apparatuses containing water/liquid
- Scented oils, candles, soaps, perfume, or anything odorous
- Providing additional lighting as part of artwork
- High volume levels and frequency
- Taxidermy
- Display of sharp or hazardous objects
- Weapon-like objects or replicas of weapons