

The Learning Connexion

Student Exhibition

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THE LEARNING
CONNEXION
School of Creativity and Art

The Learning Connexion Student Exhibition

The Learning Connexion Student Exhibition runs at the end of every term, and you are all encouraged to enter work. Because it's student-run it's a great process to get involved in and is an excellent opportunity to get some feedback from the general public.

The exhibition does not have to be about showing your best work, or trying to sell your art. It is an opportunity to connect with a wider audience and to test your ideas out. This is part of the creative process; taking risks and breaking existing patterns.

Exhibition Submissions

Every enrolled student, regardless of level, is encouraged to submit artwork to the exhibition. Artwork must be ready to hang, accompanied by a submission form and received by the submission deadline.

Artwork can be for sale and The Learning Connexion takes a small commission to cover costs, but you do not need to sell your work if you don't want to. If you have special requirements for your work then you need to get in touch with TLC Exhibition Liaison, Carrie Burke, to discuss these.

Exhibition Submission Form

All artworks need a submission form filled out and attached to them. Please use tape or staples so we can detach the bottom of the form for the catalogue.

Exhibition Contact

For more information, please contact the TLC Exhibition Liaison, Carrie Burke, on:

0800 287 769 ext 838

or email her at c.burke@tlc.ac.nz.

The Fine Print

- Your work for exhibition should be tidily presented and ready to hang (2D works with D Rings please).
- The limit on the number of artworks you can submit each term is THREE (3). Diptychs, triptychs, and series works entered as a single catalogue entry count as ONE item. There are also some exemptions for jewellery and video students.
- Work must have a price or NFS (not for sale) specified on the submission form. Submissions without a specified price will be entered as NFS in the catalogue.
- Students agree that The Learning Connexion will take a commission of 10% from all sales.
- We advise that while all care is taken The Learning Connexion takes no responsibility for loss or damage to artwork.
- If you submit your artwork by courier and it remains unsold at the end of the exhibition then it will be returned by courier at The Learning Connexion's expense.
- If you submit your artwork in person and it remains unsold at the end of the exhibition, you will need to arrange collection for it by the Wednesday following the exhibition. If you cannot collect your work from the campus then we can arrange to send it back by courier at your expense, or you can contact Carrie Burke to discuss your options.

Get Involved

The end of term exhibition is student-run and, aside from exhibiting your artwork, there are many jobs – large and small – that need doing to make the exhibition a success. Getting involved in the exhibition is a great way to learn skills that will be useful for putting on your own exhibition as well as an opportunity to meet other students.

Getting involved isn't just for on-site students. Distance delivery students are also encouraged to come and help. If you want to get involved, get in touch with Carrie Burke to be part of the team.

Tasks

Exhibition Co-ordinator

This is the largest job and, each term, one to two people take on the task of co-ordinating everything. It's a big job but a very satisfying one.

Exhibition Marketing

Marketing the exhibition involves anything from flyer drops to radio interviews and is a team effort that needs many hands.

Preparation

Two weekends before the exhibition there is a day of wall preparation and painting to get everything ready for hanging.

Submission Team

The submission team accepts work, checks it and stores it ready for hanging.

Hanging Team

The weekend before the exhibition the hanging team arranges, hangs and displays the artworks. This is a huge job and needs a large team.

Manning the Exhibition

During the show, students need to be there to welcome visitors, take payments and to keep an eye on the work. It is also the best opportunity to talk to the public about your work and is great for your confidence.



Presentation Tips

Work submitted to the exhibition must be ready to display or it won't be able to be included. Here are a

few tips to think about when preparing your work for exhibiting, both at The Learning Connexion and out in the wider world.

General Tips

- Make sure you finish your artwork with plenty of time before you need to submit it so that materials are dry or set.
- Presentation is part of how your audience views your artwork so make sure it is well-presented and tidy.
- If your artwork is fragile or easily damaged, consider that the way you present it will also help protect it from damage.
- Making your work identifiable is important when submitting it for exhibition; either sign your name on the front or back of the artwork or on a fixed tag that will not come off the work easily.
- Make sure you photograph your work if you are selling it. It's important to keep a record of what you have done for the future.
- Make sure that your work is well packaged for any travel. Tape up glass and use bubble wrap to protect it.

2D Works

- Give your artwork a finish or protective coating. This could simply be a layer of varnish on a painting to keep it from fading or wearing down, or fixative on drawing works.
- Consider framing or mounting fragile paper artworks to protect them from damage. Check out some of the cheaper options in the video on the website or talk to your tutor or mentor.
- If you are hanging a stretched canvas you may not need to frame it but do consider the edges of the canvas - you may wish to tidy them up in some way.
- Proper hanging hardware should be attached securely. Make sure that the hardware is 'weight appropriate' and the string or cord is appropriate as well. Putting a small piece of foam or tape over any screws is really a must. This will keep the art and any other artwork protected from accidental scratches.

3D Works

- Think about where your artwork will sit - does it need a shelf, plinth or stand? You will need to talk to the exhibition team about what is available if you have any special needs.
- It may be helpful to construct a stand or frame as part of the artwork itself so that your method of display is appropriate to the work.
- Consider the safety of your work and your audience. If your work is fragile then make sure it can be displayed securely - or if your work has sharp or dangerous parts it may need to be displayed in a space which restricts viewers from coming to any harm.

More Information

Your tutor or mentor can help with more information. We have a video resource on our website which has a number of tips and tricks for presenting your work.

Exhibition FAQ

Why does the exhibition run every term?

The Learning Connexion runs the exhibition every term to give you a regular goal to work towards. With enrolments to our programmes open all year around we also want to make sure you don't miss out on the opportunity to exhibit by limiting it to an annual event.

Why are the rules in place?

The exhibition rules exist to protect you, your work, visitors to the exhibition and The Learning Connexion, which is ultimately responsible for the safety and viability of what happens on-site. Staff involvement in the exhibition is important to make sure the rules are followed.

Why is the exhibition held on-campus and not at another venue?

There is a lot of expense, logistics and long-term planning to hold an exhibition of this scale outside The Learning Connexion campus. Because we run our exhibitions regularly we have found it is much more realistic to stay on campus. This does not mean that you cannot organise off-campus exhibitions on your own. TLC's philosophy of creative sustainability means you are encouraged to exhibit off-site, either in group shows or solos. These interactions give you 'real world' experiences beyond TLC's campus and mentors and tutors can help with suggestions about how to go about doing this.

Why is there a limit to the number of works that can be submitted?

There is limited space and an enormous amount of student work each term so we have set a limit to allow all students the opportunity to exhibit some of their work.



Are there any exemptions to the number limit?

There are some exemptions to the number limit:

- Any series listed as a single item on the catalogue and sold as a single item counts as a single piece
- Depending on space, it may be possible to have additional jewellery items in the jewellery cabinet
- Videos screened in the student video showcase are also allowed as additions to the total of three items

Please contact Carrie Burke if you have any questions or wish to submit jewellery or video work.

What if I want to do something experimental?

While there is limited space in the exhibition we do encourage experimental approaches and ideas. If you want to arrange something special and out of the ordinary then the exhibition team are open to helping with this. The sooner you can get in touch to talk about what you want to do the better.

Why is jewellery only displayed in cabinets?

Jewellery is displayed in the locked cabinets in the foyer for security reasons, particularly on the weekends when the space may only be lightly staffed.



Exhibition FAQ

What if I want my work to be displayed in a particular place?

How and where works are placed is always influenced by what is submitted each exhibition. 3D work can also be affected by other events that happen in the space during the exhibition which can limit the way that work can be displayed. The exhibition team has the final say on where and how works are displayed but you can talk to them if you have concerns. If you are unable to come in and help, make sure you draw up instructions for any complex hanging or display arrangements.

Can I get photographs of my work in the exhibition?

The Learning Connexion takes photos of a selection of works in the exhibition for TLC publicity purposes. These can be viewed in our Flickr gallery. If you want an image of your work in particular then you should make sure that you photograph the work yourself before submission.

Why is the exhibition open over the weekend?

We get more visitors over the weekend than on opening night. Keeping the exhibition open during the weekend is extremely important to connect with an audience.

What advertising does The Learning Connexion do for the exhibition?

The Learning Connexion arranges for the exhibition to be advertised in the arts section in the Hutt News and takes care of designing and printing flyers for distribution. The image for the flyer is selected by Jonathan Milne, the Managing Director, and the flyer is designed by The Learning Connexion's in-house designer. Printed flyers are available at reception towards the end of each term. The Learning Connexion lists the exhibition on Facebook and Eventfinder also. Other advertising is the responsibility of students and a PR kit is given to the Student Co-ordinators for distribution of promotional material.



Gemma Goodwin-Gething