

Position statement for exhibiting work by local artists at RAMM

Introduction: RAMM's exhibitions programme covers a wide range of themes which complement the diversity of the museum collections – art, antiquities, natural history and world cultures. Decisions about the content and scheduling of exhibitions are determined by the Programming team, which brings together members of Management team and colleagues from across RAMM. Meeting every two months, the Programming team considers a range of issues, including the diversity of displays; funding and resource implications; potential partnerships with national and regional organisations; and the need to exhibit a range of collections in RAMM's care. In addition, RAMM's independent Contemporary Arts Panel advises on the contemporary art programme. More information about our approach to exhibitions is on RAMM's website.

For information: RAMM receives a great many proposals and ideas for exhibitions. We read and respond to all proposals, but we advise everyone submitting an idea that the chances of success are limited, simply because of the competition for exhibitions. RAMM considers **local** artists to mean artists originating from Devon, or based within Devon (including the unitary local government areas of Torbay and Plymouth). We also consider local artists for other potential opportunities as part of our commitment to supporting contemporary arts practice. These include artist interventions in response to RAMM's collections and specific interpretation projects we may be planning. When an artist contacts us we may retain details on file to help us when considering options for the future. In this situation, we will contact the artist to inform them that we may do this.

Our **ambitions** are to support Exeter's **economic development** and **cultural** tourism through:

- **Innovation, originality and diversity of programming**
- **relevance** to local communities
- **partnerships**, nationally and regionally

Local artists

Currently, there are two ways in which local artists may have their work considered for inclusion in the exhibitions programme:

1. **By submitting an exhibition proposal** to RAMM for consideration
2. **By applying to be a part of the local arts show** which RAMM holds annually

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1. Submitting an exhibition proposal to RAMM for consideration. Artists may contact RAMM's Exhibitions Officer, by post or email, with proposals. We receive a great many submissions and do look at all of them. However, this takes time and it means we are not able to accommodate every artist or exhibition idea. RAMM's exhibition programme is usually committed up to two years ahead. As a public museum and art gallery our temporary exhibitions includes changing displays from our own large collections. So, although RAMM has several temporary display galleries, these are used to showcase a great range of material from many themes, as mentioned at the top of this paper.

1.1 Guiding principles: All proposals are reviewed and considered, however the following **criteria** are used to inform our decision-making. Solo exhibitions of individuals are reserved for established artists who have a body of work and practice that:

- can be showcased as **a retrospective exhibition in recognition of significant achievements** within their field,
- adds **public knowledge and understanding to an art historical review** of a movement or discipline,
- may be included **as part of a thematically curated exhibition**,
- is **commissioned as part of a project to increase access to RAMM's collections**

Where an artist meets the above criteria, they can contact RAMM via post or email as explained below.

1.2 Please try to keep proposals to no more than 400 words / approximately two sides of A4 and include the following information:

- Project / exhibition title
- Content outline of the exhibition, anticipated audience and any ideas for learning/event opportunities.
- A description of how your proposal meets the guiding principles.
- Enclose no more than 6 images / supporting leaflets as appropriate. These may be physical / printed copies or on disc (CD). **Please note we cannot accept USB sticks.**
- Indicate the approximate size of your exhibition (linear metres / feet, or approximate floor area) including space for interpretive material.
- Indicate how many items or works you are proposing to exhibit, an indication of the average size of each work and whether you require display cases for any material.

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- Dates (if touring – available dates, bearing in mind our existing commitments are up to two years ahead).
- How the project is funded / costs (including details of funding applications) and any partners involved in the project.

Address: Proposals may then be posted to Kate Loubser (Exhibitions Officer), RAMM Offices, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, EXETER EX4 3LS.

Email: kate.loubser@exeter.gov.uk

Details about this may be found on the website at the following link:

<http://rammuseum.org.uk/about-ramm/exhibiting-at-ramm/if-you-are-interested-in-exhibiting-with-us>

2. By applying to be a part of the local arts show which RAMM holds each year. The museum has committed to holding an annual **local arts exhibition**. The content of this show, or the participating artists / groups of artists are informed by either a public vote, or an independent judging panel. RAMM will endeavour to present the local arts exhibition in partnership with a media partner to encourage a wide awareness with the general public.

Previous examples of the **Local Arts Show** include the partnership with the '*Express & Echo*' (November/ December 2012). Further details about future Local Arts Shows are issued via RAMM's website and twitter.

Information at: <http://rammuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/express-and-echo-local-art-show>.

Criteria for artists: Local art shows may be initiated with a specific theme in mind, for artists to respond to. Where this is the case, **criteria** for the exhibition will be made publicly available via RAMM's website, twitter account and facebook page; as well as issued through media information. Alternatively, an invitation may be extended to a group of artists working as part of an established society.

Further information:

Other venues which present exhibitions of contemporary art are noted below. Please note this list is not exhaustive and artists who are interested should contact individual galleries for their policy on exhibiting.

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Exeter Phoenix

www.exeterphoenix.org.uk

Exeter Phoenix, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter, EX4 3LS

Telephone: 01392 667080

Gloss Gallery

www.glossgallery.co.uk

Gloss-Art Exeter, 1 Barnfield Crescent, EXETER EX1 1QT

Telephone: 01392 278 522

Email: art@glossgallery.co.uk

Spacex

www.spacex.org.uk

45 Preston Street

Exeter, EX1 1DF

Telephone: 01392 431 786

Email: mail@spacex.org.uk

(Please note, Spacex usually programmes exhibitions by invitation, not via open submission)