

RCASU EXHIBITIONS 2024-25

Information for Applicants:

Introduction/Past Shows

So you want to be part of the Student Union's Exhibitions? Well, you're in excellent company. 2024-2025 is the third academic year in which we will officially host these shows, inviting applications from all students.

To see past examples, which we hope will spark your imagination and show you how much you can do in these spaces, please see the RCASU Exhibitions [page on our website page here](#).



Alt Text: Photograph of three paintings on canvas hanging from fishing line in front of a brick wall, in the Hangar Gallery at the RCA. The paintings are in pale pinks, yellows and blues, and depict doorways or openings in or between buildings.

Spaces

Choice of Space

There are four gallery spaces on campus in which students can hold shows.

In Battersea there is:

The Hangar Gallery

In Kensington there is:

The Hockney Gallery

The Upper Gulbankian

You are welcome to tailor your proposal around a particular space, but please note that your application is more likely to be successful if you can be flexible on locations. The Hangar Gallery is particularly in-demand, but we will only be able to hold a limited number of shows in that space. The RCASU Exhibitions Working Group will ultimately decide which space is best suited for your needs.

Dates

Our use of on campus spaces is subject to their availability, and unfortunately, academic exhibitions and events do take priority over our exhibitions. The dates that we have for Term 1 are:

Hockney Gallery - 11th to 15th November

Hangar Spae - 18th to 22nd November

Upper Gulbenkian Hall - 9th to 13th December

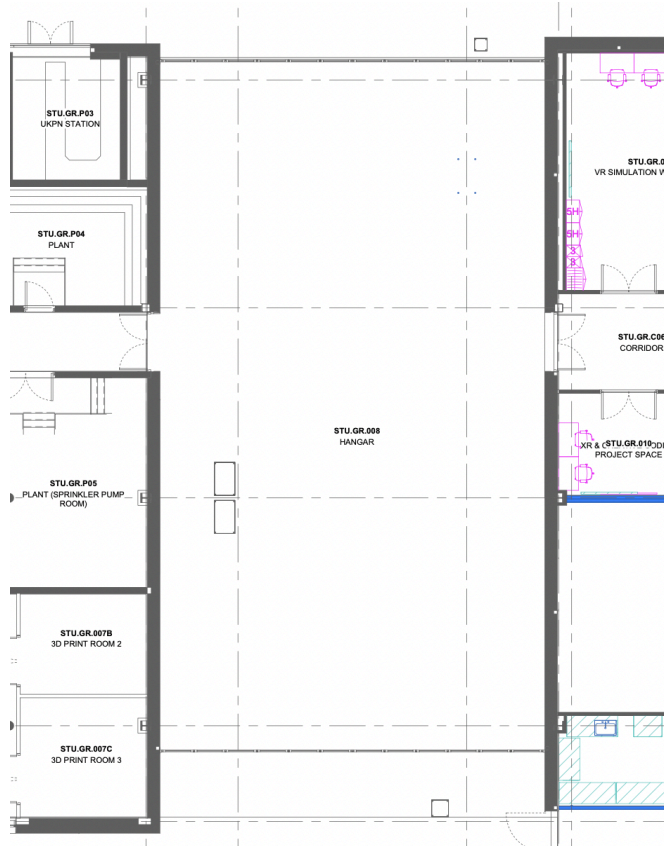
Use of Space

Below are tables that offer a general view of what you can and cannot do in each space. All plans are subject to final approval from Mike Alexander, RCA's health and safety manager, and his views/suggestions override anything listed here.

Hangar Gallery	
Can	Cannot
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Exhibit freestanding sculptures, or sculptures on floor (so long as they do not pose a trip hazard, or block the fire escape routes).- Lightweight paintings, textiles, drawings, or sculptures hung from the scaffolding system. Subject to Risk Assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Drill or nail into any walls- Hang anything on walls with tape, glue, command strips or white or blue tack- Paint walls, or otherwise stain them.

- Exhibit sculptures on plinths (you must source your own plinths. The SU has 3 plinths available)

Images:



Hockney Gallery

Can

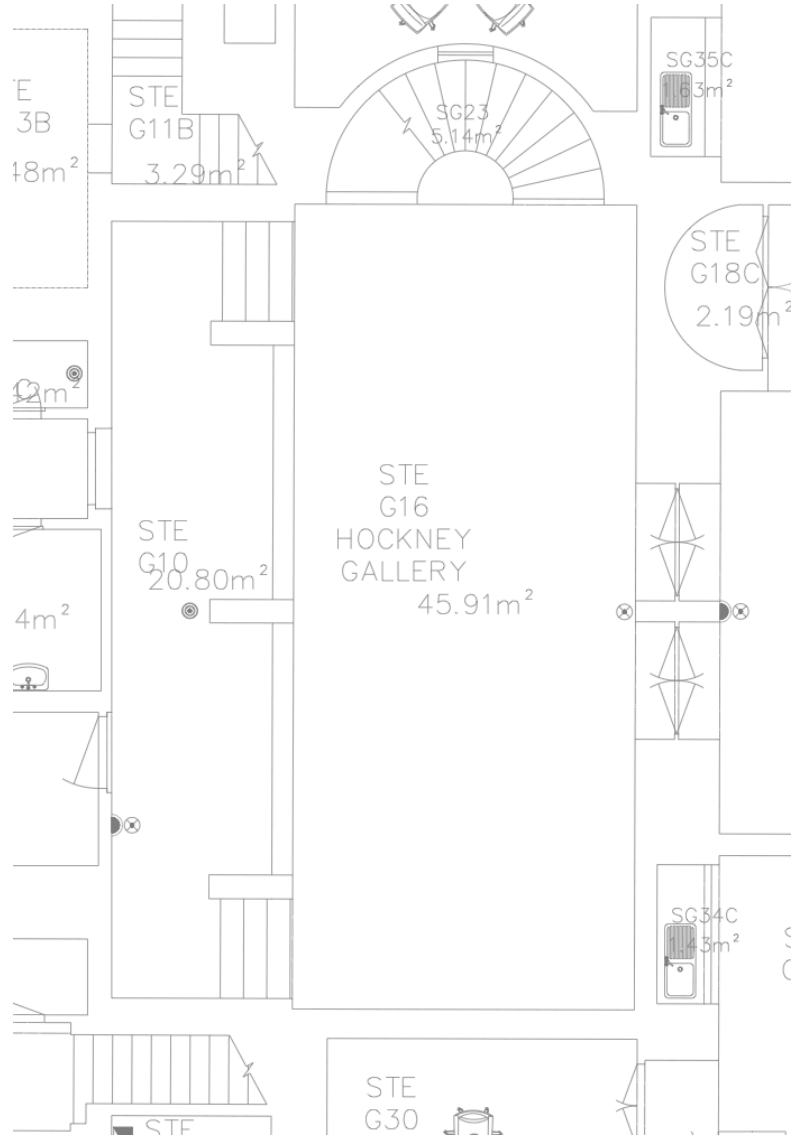
- Drill into walls (make good afterwards)
- Hang things from balcony railing, subject to a risk assessment and supervision from a technician, if agreed in advance.
- Exhibit freestanding sculptures, or sculptures on floor (so long as they do not pose a trip hazard, or block the fire escape routes).

Cannot

- Paint walls, or otherwise stain them.

- Exhibit sculptures on plinths (you must source your own plinths. The SU has 3 plinths available)

Images:



Upper Gulbankian

Can

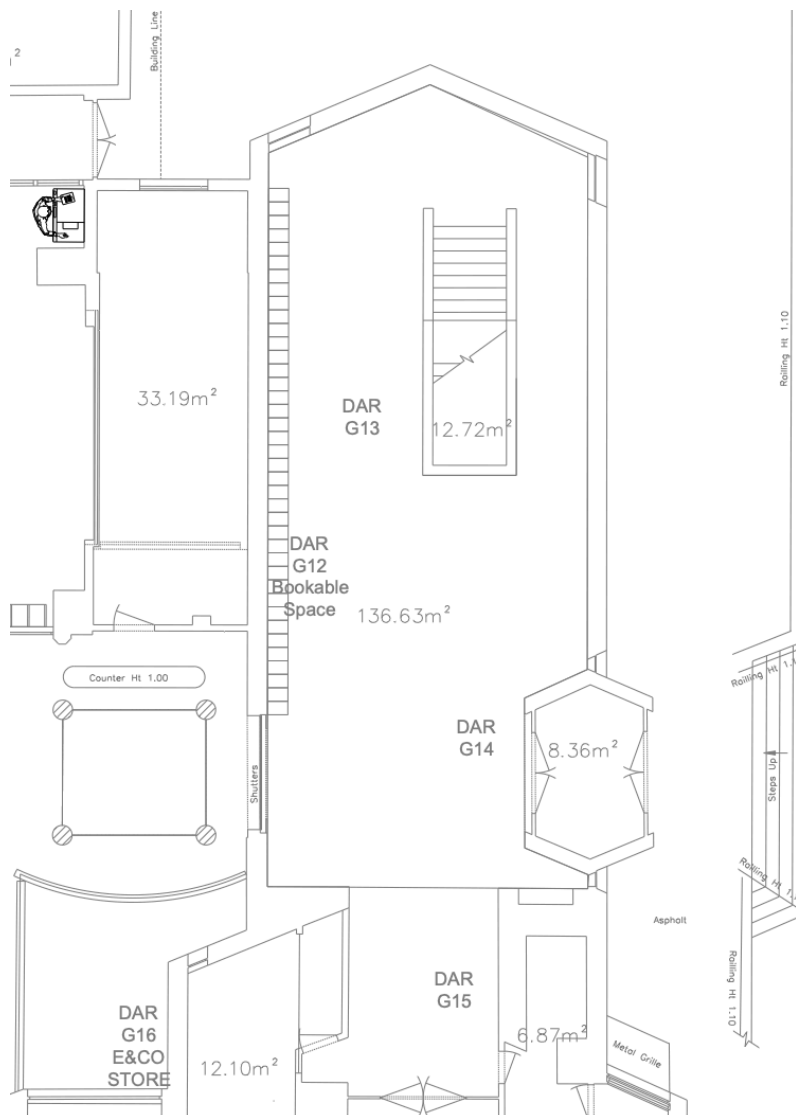
- Drill or nail into walls (make good afterwards)

Cannot

- Paint walls, or otherwise stain them.

- Hang lightweight artwork on walls with white tack.
- Exhibit freestanding sculptures, or sculptures on floor (so long as they do not pose a trip hazard, or block the fire escape routes).
- Exhibit sculptures on plinths (you must source your own plinths. The SU has 3 plinths available)
- Hang lightweight objects from the ceiling.

Images:



Expectations

What You Can Expect of Us (The SU)

RCASU Exhibitions are primarily open for the RCA community. In order to have a public element to your show, we can offer a one 8 hour public opening at any point during the exhibition. The public opening must be approved by the Lead Curator and the SU. The SU will provide security and a pop-up bar (bar is subject to further approval) free of charge. The SU requires at least four weeks notice of the public opening.

The management of the public opening must be discussed and approved by the SU and the Lead Curator.

Again, please note that all of the above will be free for you. There is only scenario in which you would pay any money for these shows:

- 1) **You have damaged college property:** This will be dealt with on a case by case basis. For minor issues, you may be able to repair/clean the area, but for major damages, you will be liable to pay for repairs. This should be easily avoidable by taking care during install and deinstall, and behaving responsibly throughout the show.

Security of work

During the day, security guards are on campus, and only RCA staff, students (and sometimes their guests, who should be accompanied always by a staff member or student) will be able to access the area. During the public opening, we will have two security guards present to ensure safety. At night, campus is closed to all. There are CCTV Cameras in the Hangar, Hockney, and Upper Gulbenkian. The SU or College is not liable for any artwork damaged or stolen.

What We Expect of You (The Student)

Behaviour

We expect that students behave responsibly and courteously toward other students, staff, and visitors at all times in the process of organising and realising these shows. As RCA students, you are expected to comply with the colleges' Terms & Conditions for Students. If participants in the show act rudely, threateningly or in contradiction to the expectations set out in the Policy on Public Exhibition of Work, Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech, the SU reserves the right to postpone or cancel any exhibition, or remove individuals from the exhibition.

Damage to College Space

If there is damage to college spaces during these shows, both you and the SU may be liable to pay a fee for repairs. If the damages are significant, the college may stop agreeing to hold these shows, meaning that future students will not be afforded the opportunity. For both of those reasons, please do take great care of the space.

We have agreed that if anyone involved in a show causes damage to the space, that person (or those people) will be liable for at least 50% of the cost of fixing the damage. In order to

participate, we ask that all students involved in a show sign a form (which you will receive as part of your acceptance notification), to acknowledge that they understand this.

Invigilation

If you are concerned about the safety of your work during the day, or if you want to be available to provide further information about the exhibition to interested viewers, it may be a good idea to organise invigilators for the space, for some or all of the time that you are open. This must be organised between the exhibitors. The SU will not require you to have invigilation, nor will it assist in organising invigilation slots.

Application

All applications submitted before the deadline will be judged by a panel of staff and students. The panel will be composed of three or four members of SU staff including both sabbatical officers, and usually two student trustees. This group will meet after the application period closes, review the applications based on the below criteria, and select their top four shows. **If you are selected, any significant changes to your proposal must be approved by the SU.**

Applications must be submitted via the [Google Form](#) by 18 March. All proposals must include [alt text](#) if they contain images. You will hear back about your application by 19 March.

Criteria:

Conceptual rigour and appropriateness for the space: Is this show interesting? Is it relevant in some way to the experiences of RCA students? Does it enrich the space? We are looking for shows that make students feel welcome and excited to be in.

Representation of students: We value diversity in all forms. This includes diversity of discipline/media, theme and artists, as well as diversity of identities. Does this show feel inclusive of a diversity of perspectives? We aim to support group exhibitions, and encourage students from multiple programmes to be included when possible and appropriate. Our goal is to get as many students into the space as possible. Therefore, it is extremely unlikely that solo show proposals will be accepted.

Feasibility of installation: How challenging will it be to hang this exhibition? Was it proposed with the space and constraints of the respective gallery spaces in mind? We strive to accommodate any work that we feel is worth showing, but there are space requirements we must adhere to. We will negotiate with you where possible.

FAQ

Q. Does the SU help promote the show through its official channels and communications?

- A. Yes. The SU promotes Exhibitions through our Instagram, the newsletter and uploading to our website. It is the responsibility of the participating students to create any promotional material such as a poster, graphic or exhibition text, and provide this material in due time to the SU. It is the responsibility of the student to distribute any posters/printed materials.

Q. Does the SU provide funding for materials used for the creation of artwork and/or for exhibition materials?

- A. The SU cannot provide funding for such materials. It is up to students to source materials required for their exhibition. We recommend consulting what is available in the RCA resource store and the RCA Shop in the first instance. The SU will not make these enquiries for you.

The RCA does offer a Materials Fund which offers support for materials costs for students facing financial difficulty. More information can be found here:

<https://intranet.rca.ac.uk/financial-assistance-funds>. It must be noted that, although this support does exist, it is not guaranteed and ultimately it is the decision of the College whether they can support you with costs for this context.

Q. Can alumni take part in exhibitions?

- A. Alumni are allowed to take part in Non Academic Shows. However, Non Academic Shows are designed primarily for current students, and are therefore given priority.

Q. Does the SU offer technical support for shows?

A. The SU does not provide technical support for shows. It is primarily the responsibility of students to handle the technical element of installing their exhibition.

However, the SU does consult with the College's Technical Services to seek guidance and approval for shows, in conversation with Show Leads. The College is able to provide a base level of Technical support, outlined below:

- Representation within the event management team.
- Pre exhibition surgeries to advise on proposals.
- Portable Appliance Testing to ensure older or made electrical items are electrically safe.
- Equipment loans, including basic tools, plinths and working at height equipment for trained users.

- On site supervision and assistance during installation and removal of works for an agreed period during normal working hours.
- Post event meetings to provide feedback.

The SU will introduce the Lead Curator to a representative from both Estates and Technical Services, but must keep the SU in the loop with all communications and updates.

Q. What should be included in the proposal?

There is no set format for what the proposal should look like. It is up to the students to design a proposal that suits their needs. However, the proposal should, throughout, be tailored toward the specific criteria listed in this application pack. Proposals that clearly and effectively communicate how the exhibition meets the criteria tend to be the strongest applications.

In order to meet the criteria, we suggest the following elements could be included in the proposal:

- A clear outline of the central theme/concept of the exhibition.
- A provisional list and images of the proposed artworks with as much detail about them as possible (materials, dimensions, artist statement, etc.), emphasising how each artwork relates to each other and fits within the curatorial framework. If the exhibition consists/contains elements of live performances the same applies: a list of what the performances entail in as much detail as possible.
- A provisional installation plan, taking into account the requirements of each Gallery space.

Cue Art Foundation provides some useful tips on how to write compelling exhibition proposals, which can be found [here](#).

Best of luck preparing your show proposal! If you have any questions about submitting your application, please contact [Students Union](#)

*Unfortunately, we are not able to provide individual feedback on any particular application.

Questions

Best of luck preparing your show proposal! If you have any questions about submitting your application, please contact students.union@rca.ac.uk

All best,
RCASU.