

Basic Install Tips - 2D hanging

Exhibition Layout

Before you rush ahead and start hanging the art it's important to take some time to design the layout of the exhibition.

- Bring all your prepared artwork to the space and start by spreading out the pieces and putting them against the wall where you think they might look good. Move the pieces around until you are happy.
- While thinking about the aesthetics of the hang it's important to consider the flow of the room - Can visitors move around the gallery safely?
- If there are windows in the space, beware of reflections on framed works and direct sunlight on works on paper
- Consider which style of hang you will use – gallery/standard height, salon etc.
- Enlist an objective person to help you make decisions.

Installation

Once you have worked out your final layout it's now time to start hanging. Most artwork is best viewed with the centre at eye level, which is usually at 150cm from the floor. To find the 150cm centre height, here is a quick measurement technique:

Height of the artwork ÷ 2 + 150cm = Top of the artwork

To ensure an efficient and professional exhibition installation make sure you delegate your install team according to their skills and experience.

Installation Materials

Before the install period check that you have all the correct equipment.

Essential tools;

- Cordless drill
- Hammer drill (if you are drilling into cement or masonry)
- Drill bits
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Spirit level (including a small level for placing on top of framed works)
- Hammer
- Pliers
- Ladder

Depending on what you are installing and what method you will probably need the following fixtures;

- D rings
- Screws



You might also like ...

Exhibition and Display Basics

Museums Australia Victoria

http://www.mavic.asn.au/assets/Info_Sheet_11_Display_Basics.pdf

Curatorial Toolkit

2010 Legacies Now

<http://mgnsw.org.au/sector/resources/online-resources/exhibition/curatorial-toolkit/>

Lighting for displays

Smithsonian American Art Museum

<http://mgnsw.org.au/sector/resources/online-resources/exhibition/lighting/>

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- Wires
 - Hanging cables
 - Adjustable hooks
 - Wall tracks and clip-in hangers

Do you have the right type of screw for your gallery wall?

- Gyprock – Gyprock screws and wall mates
- Gyprock with back – Gyprock screws
- Brick walls and paster – Wall plug and screw

Health and Safety

Install hazards emerge from convenience, therefore it's important to keep the gallery tidy and organised during installation. To avoid accidents don't forget the following health and safety practices:

- Ladders should be adequately supported at the base. Do not erect ladders on slippery or soft surfaces.
- When lifting objects, consider your ability to handle the load. If in doubt, get assistance.
- Don't forget to wear respiratory protection masks when exposed to dust and fumes.
- Be wary of trip hazards, such as extension cords.