

Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery

Education Policy

This Policy is to enable education programmes as adjuncts to the current exhibitions.

Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery aims to provide an open and welcoming environment for all to enjoy and discover contemporary art.

The Aims

- To promote understanding of contemporary art
- To make contemporary art accessible
- To promote critical debate
- To increase awareness and attract new audiences to the work of the gallery
- To ensure that each individual participating in the works of the gallery will have the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge
- To ensure that participants reflect the multicultural and social diversity of our society and that the needs of all individuals participating in the education and outreach programme are met
- To promote best practice in the fields of gallery education and arts led outreach projects such as Art in the City and the McCahon House project
- To promote the reputation of Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery nationally as an initiator of high quality work in the areas of gallery education and outreach
- To run artist led workshops to accompany exhibitions for children and families
- To run a programme of talks and discussions facilitating critical debate and dissemination of ideas
- To work with highly skilled professionals who set the scene for good practice by guaranteeing the delivery of high quality work
- To run creative outreach projects working with disadvantaged and minority groups
- To run specific education programmes for schools that enhance curriculum studies
- To encourage new groups to be involved with projects that will introduce them to fresh ideas and experiences
- Wherever possible to publicly display, promote or publish, through print or digital media, the outcomes of education and outreach projects
- To work in partnership with other organisations regionally and nationally in the delivery and promotion of educational events and projects
- To contribute to critical debate and best practice nationally in the areas of gallery education and outreach, especially in the fields of new media arts, through publications and participation professional development opportunities.

By providing a stimulating, accessible and varied Education and Outreach Programme the gallery offers the opportunity for a wide range of audiences to engage with the exhibition programme and the work of professional artists. Education and outreach projects form part of the core artistic programme of the gallery and are conceived in tandem with exhibitions.

We believe that participation in contemporary arts allows the opportunity for personal development and contributes to the quality of life for both the individual and the community as a whole. Through our education and outreach programme we aim to offer opportunities for both those in mainstream education and individuals from disaffected, excluded or minority groups to participate in the work of the gallery. The gallery is responsive to the needs of all visitors and wherever possible guided tours or tailored sessions will be offered by gallery staff, to groups approaching the gallery, alongside projects and events conceived and developed with particular groups in mind.

Through the Education and Outreach Programme Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery is an active participant in arts initiatives in west Auckland, working in partnership and forging new links with other organisations locally and nationally. We believe that the programme we offer differs from that offered in formal education or community settings in that it is not driven by an exam or attainment curriculum, but also offers meaningful, challenging and life enhancing experiences. Collaborations with professional artists in both delivering and devising our programme is key to this.