Gallery 234 Tips for an Amazing Art Show: Suggested Gallery Standards

Set the artwork:

- Setting the artwork before you begin hanging the art helps you to get a feel of what the final exhibit will look like and ensure that you only have to hang the art once.
- Set the show by placing the artwork on the floors around the walls where you plant to hang it.
- Try varying the distance between the artwork and placing it in groupings. This creates visual interest and gives the eye a place to rest. This will also encourage the viewer to look at the art work longer.

Hanging the artwork:

American museum standard for hanging artwork is 58 inches on center. This means that the center of each piece of artwork or grouping is 58 inches from the floor. Using this standard height will give the exhibit a professional look and help the viewer go seamlessly from one piece to the next.

Tip: To hang artwork at 58 inches on the center first measure the height of the piece and then divide that number in half. Add 58 and subtract the drop. The drop is the distance from the top of the artwork to the hooks or wire from which it will hang.

Formula: \( \frac{1}{2}h + 58 - d = \text{nail height} \)

Labeling:

Three types of labels to consider including:

- Narrative label- a short description about the artist
- Introduction label- introduce the exhibit to the audience, what is the purpose or nature of the exhibit
- Artwork labels- a label for each piece or group of art, should include the artist’s name, the title of the work, the medium of the work, and the price of the work (if applicable)

There are a few different label options:

- Adhesive labels
Use traditional printer labels or for a more professional look use good heavy paper to display your information.

To make it a bit more professional, stick the labels or use adhesive spray glue to mount the labels onto matte board or foam core, the use an X-Acto knife and a ruler to cut the edges.

- **Map**
  - If you want to keep the walls around the artwork entirely clear of information, then use a floor plan of the gallery and number your works and provide a corresponding list.

- **Vinyl**
  - Custom-cut vinyl lettering is easily removable and will not damage walls.
  - Vinyl lettering can be cut very small making it easy to adhere the information for each piece directly beside each artwork.
  - Can be a bit expensive.

### General tips:

- Select a readable and plain font.
- Be consistent by using the same format and placing labels at the same height and distance from the art pieces all around the room.
- Add extra text-stories that explain your work so you can help connect with the viewers and get your message across.

### Final Touches:

To give your exhibit the final touch, do not forget the guestbook and a pen—this gives visitors a clear end point and way to reflect on what they saw.