

Senior Show Guidelines

by MORGAN HUDSON

The Senior Exhibition is an ACU graduation requirement for all Art and Design majors completing a bachelor's degree. Provided below is an itinerary of everything a senior exhibition entails. Once this itinerary has been completed the Senior Exhibition requirement may be considered completed.

Reception

An opening reception is required and your attendance demanded. Typically the receptions begin at 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. and run until around 6:30 or 7 p.m. At the reception, **one of the student gallery workers will be there at all times to assist you as needed.** You are responsible for providing any refreshments, flowers, entertainment, etc...

Suggested items you might provide/include:

- Food – cookies, snacks, finger foods, drinks and plenty of ice.
- Paper napkins, cups, plates, table cloth, etc. and any other necessary supplies
- CD's or live music
- Flowers/decorations
- Sign-in book so that you will no who came (leave a place for comments)

The department will provide a CD player, microphone and speaker, serving tables, a punch bowl, some serving dishes, and ice chest. There is a refrigerator, sink, soap, towels and limited counter space for your use in the back. The department will also provide a hanging paper sign on the inside glass wall. This should be designed by show participants.

- 4:30** Be present in the gallery.
- 5:00** Open doors.
- 5:15** Introductions and Lectures (maximum of 5 minutes per student)
- 6:30** Cleanup. All dishes must be washed, food removed from the gallery, table returned to storage, and all trash bagged and removed to dumpsters located north of Edwards Residence Hall (or place in 2-D Design room to be hauled off). You must complete the checklist located in the back of the gallery before leaving.

Reception Lecture

Each student is required to prepare and deliver a brief speech at the reception. A faculty member that you are particularly close to should be asked in advance to introduce you. One faculty member could introduce all of you or different faculty might introduce you individually. This is an honor for your professors so don't be hesitant to ask. Your remarks may include introductions of family and guests but the primary goal of the talk is to introduce yourself and intelligently discuss your work in the show. Your speech should be limited to 5 minutes and could be derived (or read) from your posted statement*.

You should be prepared and professional. Use the microphone and speak clearly and slowly as it is difficult to hear in a crowded space, particularly with our noisy air control system. Introduce yourself by name, origin, major, career prospects and ambitions. You might then choose to discuss inherent themes and directions in all your pieces or elect to spend time on just one or two pieces that you feel represent you well or are of particular interest. Influences, media, techniques and thought processes could be addressed.

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Posted Statement:

Each student must prepare and display a statement that addresses much of what might be mentioned in your talk. This statement should not be too long and printed in a relatively large font. One or two brief but well considered paragraphs are sufficient. A copy of this statement must be emailed to the acting Gallery Director. Be aware that these statements will be retained and that may be included on the website and printed documents.

Student Responsibilities

This is your show. Make it as nice as possible! It will take preparation but will be worth the effort. Items like publicity must be addressed early to meet printing deadlines. Work should be suitably prepared for display. All pieces that are suitable for framing must be framed. Each piece must be clean and dry. There should be no charcoal smudges on the back, no wet paint, no kiln wash on ceramics, etc. Make certain that there is nothing on the surface of your work that could mark or soil the wall or scratch the floor of the gallery!

Number of Required Works Per Student:

How many pieces will you need? It depends on several factors but always you must consider size of individual works and whether they will take up wall floor space. The gallery will hold anywhere between 20 and 25 wall pieces of average size without looking too sparse or crowded. If you are showing with three other individuals, you will need to prepare 5 to 6 pieces to hang. There is usually more flexibility in regard to 3-D works as these can often be grouped if necessary.

Also, philosophically some students feel that only “fine art” pieces are suitable for a senior show. This attitude is understandable, as typically that is what galleries exclusively feature, but that is not in keeping with the purposes of our senior shows at ACU. These shows are designed to showcase you and the works that you have produced in preparation for careers that vary immensely. Exclusively graphic design pieces or interior design projects are perfectly appropriate. Today, prestigious museums across the country will put together shows that focus on design rather than traditional painting or sculpture. You should consider this as you select the pieces for your exhibition.

Regarding painting the gallery and Installations:

Our policy is to allow students to paint the back wall of the gallery only. This expense must be borne by the show participants. The Gallery Director must pre-approve colors and the paint must be flat and water-based. Should you choose to paint this wall, be aware that paint drips and splatters on the floor must be removed completely or a fine will be administered to all participants.

Site-specific installations have become more popular in recent years. If this requires suspending objects from the ceiling or unusual anchoring to the walls, it is important that you receive advanced approval. Also, keep in mind that sometimes restraint and/or a more minimalistic approach is more effective and complimentary of the works hanging in the show than an environment that is too chaotic or congested.

Preparations and Publicity for Your Show

Get together three or four weeks before the opening and discuss what you want to do. Do you wish to print invitations, posters or promote the event on KACU, the Abilene Reporter News or a local news station?

Signage options include:

Large Poster- printed at the CopyCat in the ACU Library. The standard size is 35” x 48” at 150-300 dpi (or vector sent to printer in PDF format). This can be mounted inside the window of the gallery using transparent plastic suction cups.

Banner- A banner can be printed and attached to the outside of the gallery on a designated wall. Design at: 6” x 11.5” at 300 dpi (3450 px by 1800 px). If interested, the turn around time is around a week and the cost is approximately \$80.

The Week of The Opening (Suggested Schedule)

Sat/Sun: Wall preparation and painting if desired.

Monday:

Works Due in the Shore Gallery.

Wall labels should be prepared, printed and taken to CopyCat for mounting and trimming. Please request that they be mounted on white foam core. **Download this template** to create your wall labels.

Receive instructions on professional hanging practices from a gallery assistant or the gallery director. Begin hanging show. Note that the gallery assistant may be able to provide some assistance to you in this process but it your responsibility to prepare and hang the show—ATTENDANCE MANDATORY!

Wednesday: Artist's statement of one paragraph due in office. Statement should include brief bio info- include degree, hometown, career aspirations, insight into work.

Thursday: Confirm arrangements for food and refreshments. Finish hanging show—Have all pieces hung, lighted, and properly labeled—ATTENDANCE MANDATORY!

Friday: Reception

General Information

With the exception of the signage on the outside wall all funds are the responsibility of the students. In the past, CAT and SA have provided funds for the Senior Show but it is your responsibility to contact them.

Some of your pieces may be omitted due to limited gallery space, poor quality or preparation, inappropriateness, etc. The final decisions regarding exhibited pieces rest with the Gallery Director and Department Chair.

Any questions should be addressed to:

Jack Maxwell – 325-665-7001 (cell) maxwellj@acu.edu (Gallery Director)

Jill Dowdy- 903-353-2328 (cell) jld08b@acu.edu (Lead Gallery Worker)

