



## **Crafts Study Centre: Temporary Exhibitions Policy 2020-2025**

### **Policy statement**

This policy sets out the Craft Study Centre's approach to temporary exhibitions. It is to be used internally for planning and artistic direction, and externally by artist-makers\* seeking to understand the approach of the Crafts Study Centre (CSC) when they approach the CSC with an exhibition proposal. This policy aims to make the selection process transparent as well as clear.

### **History of temporary exhibitions at the CSC**

From the outset of the establishment of the CSC as a public museum at the University for the Creative Arts in 2004, decisions had to be made about the most effective use of the two exhibition galleries at the CSC's disposal. The presentation of the CSC's core collections was an important feature of the early discussions, but it was also felt that the CSC needed to continue its longstanding work with contemporary practitioners, especially in relation to its status within a specialist Higher Education Institution.

A pattern was quickly established whereby the ground floor gallery (the Tanner Gallery) was devoted to a long-term exhibition based fundamentally on the exposure of the CSC's permanent collections (the *raison d'être* of the CSC), with the first floor gallery devoted in the main to contemporary craft exhibitions (the Contemporary Exhibitions Gallery). The delivery of this programme, balancing presentations of modern with contemporary shows, has provided the backbone of the approach to temporary exhibitions ever since.

Between 2004 and 2018, between four and six exhibitions were held per year in the Contemporary Exhibitions Gallery, with some exhibitions lasting as little as six weeks. Due to the heavy demands this placed on a small staff with an ever-tightening budget, in 2019 it was decided to reduce this to three exhibitions per year (approximately one per term) to allow a greater focus on quality and a longer exhibition period for each show.

### **Guiding principles for temporary exhibitions**

1. The CSC will hold one intensively-researched and interpreted exhibition per year in the Tanner Gallery, focusing on the presentation of the CSC's permanent collections, and seeking thematic approaches to the history and development of these modern and contemporary craft collections, as well as studies of the contribution to the collections by individual craft artists whose work is represented.
2. The CSC will hold three exhibitions a year in the Contemporary Exhibitions Gallery, and focus this programme on contemporary craft practice. There will be a special focus on individual artist-makers, enabling both emerging and established artist-makers in the UK and internationally to shape an exhibition of their recent work. It is intended to present craft work of a wide variety of mediums (more than those represented by the CSC's collections). The exhibition programme will address the widest parameters of craft practice, and will seek to represent a culturally diverse view of craft. Partnership opportunities will be sought in order to develop innovative collaborative presentations of craft work.
3. There may be times when, for example, an exhibition from the permanent collections is held in the Contemporary Exhibitions Gallery; a contemporary exhibition could feature in the Tanner Gallery; or both galleries are used for a single exhibition. This will be done for significant reasons, such as to pursue research or to celebrate artist-makers who have had a particular relationship with the CSC's history and development.

4. The CSC will seek to focus temporary exhibitions on craft work that is innovative, exceptional and of high quality, and show work that develops a wider understanding and enjoyment of the crafts, in order to develop the CSC's reputation as a nationally significant venue for contemporary and modern exhibitions and its strategic role as a specialist craft venue.
5. Temporary exhibitions will be supported by events programming, such as artist-maker's talks, in-conversations, lectures and symposia, and the CSC may also produce publications to accompany the exhibitions.

#### **Development of the temporary exhibitions programme**

- The temporary exhibitions programme follows the principles outlined above and tries to represent a range of craft disciplines within its programme for each year.
- The temporary exhibitions programme is developed by the Director, with the support of the Curator, and all programming decisions are at the discretion of the Director.
- The temporary exhibitions programme is developed approximately three years in advance.
- The CSC welcomes proposals for exhibitions from contemporary artist-makers which show craft work that is innovative, exceptional and of high quality. The CSC reserves the right to turn down proposals.

\* The CSC appreciates that artist-makers use many different words to describe themselves – artists, makers, craft makers, craftspeople etc. – and has chosen to use 'artist-maker' as a representative and inclusive term.

**Name of governing body:** Crafts Study Centre Trustees

**Date on which this policy was approved by governing body:** 24 September 2020

**Policy review procedure:** The Exhibitions Policy will be reviewed from time to time, at least once every five years.

**Date at which this policy is due for review:** September 2025