



## **SAM Selects 2026 Application Guidelines**

SAM Selects is an annual exhibition opportunity open to artists, curators, creative practitioners, and community groups based in the Goulburn Valley region to present in the Hugh D.T Williamson Community Gallery at the Shepparton Art Museum.

### **Key dates (TBC)**

Applications open: 1 August 2025  
Applications close: 1 September 2025  
Applicants notified of outcome in early October 2025  
Exhibition installation period: 2 – 6 March 2026  
Exhibition: 7 March – 1 June 2026  
Exhibition de-install period: 22 – 27 June 2026

### **Application fee** \$44.00 inc. GST

*This non-refundable application fee covers the administration costs of the selection panel.*

### **Successful applicant will receive**

- A 12-week exhibition at SAM.
- Support from the SAM Exhibitions Team to develop, deliver and install the successful exhibition.
- All exhibition signage including labels and a printed room guide or catalogue.
- Exhibition furniture such as plinths and AV equipment as available.
- Full suite of advertising and promotion for the exhibition.

### **Eligibility**

- Applicants must live, work, or study within Greater Shepparton, Alpine, Benalla, Campaspe, Greater Shepparton, Indigo, Mansfield, Mitchell, Moira, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta, and Wodonga OR the artworks within the proposed exhibition were produced in the region such as being created as part of a residency held within the Goulburn Valley region.
- Applicants must be 20 years of age or older at the time of applying.
- Applicants must not have exhibited at SAM in a solo or group exhibition (excluding SAM OPEN and/or SAM Fresh) within the past two years (between 2023 and 2025).
- Applicants cannot be full-time employees or immediate family members of Shepparton Art Museum, SAM Ltd Board, and SAM Foundation Boards and their advisory committees.



- Applicants must submit original work and be able to show a sustained commitment to presenting publicly.
- Proposed exhibitions may contain artworks of any medium including but not limited to painting, sculpture, video, photography, drawing or installation.
- Artworks cannot include hazardous materials, rust, or organic material such as wood, plants, or animal matter. Treated, commercially available organic material, such as timber from Bunnings, is acceptable.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be considered.

### **Selection Criteria**

The selection panel will consider the following criteria:

- That the exhibition proposal considers and is appropriate for the gallery space.
- The artistic merit of the artworks is high, representing a contemporary viewpoint of the region.
- The exhibition concept is clear and well thought-out and complements SAM's broader artistic program.
- Artworks to be presented were completed in the last three years or are sufficiently developed and will be ready for exhibition by 17 February 2025.
- The proposed exhibition must not have been shown in another public art gallery in Victoria (regional or metro) in the last five years.
- The artist(s), curator(s), or community group can demonstrate a prior exhibition record, and/or demonstrate prior commitment to presenting publicly.
- SAM Selects is an exhibition opportunity geared toward presenting the artwork of professional artists with a history of exhibiting.

### **Selection process**

Once applications have closed

- SAM will convene the Selection Panel to review and assess all SAM Selects applications according to the selection criteria.
- The Selection Panel will select one application.
- SAM will contact the applicant to offer them the opportunity to exhibit.
- Acceptance of the offer to exhibit must be made in writing within 14 days. After this time, SAM will approach another applicant to exhibit or make alternative arrangements.
- All SAM Selects applicant(s) will be notified of the outcome of their proposal in early October 2025.



## **Application checklist**

In addition to some general information and survey questions the following will be requested in the application:

- A short artist, curator, or group biography.
- An artist and/or curator CV; no more than 2 pages. If there is more than one artist in the exhibition proposal, please provide a CV for each and a letter of support indicating their intent to be involved.
- An exhibition proposal that includes:
  - Exhibition title
  - Names of artist/s involved
  - A brief exhibition text
  - A .pdf of images of the artwork to be included in the show that includes the artwork's title, medium, year and dimensions. For moving image, performance, or sound artworks a 'still' must be included of the artwork in the portfolio and a link provided to viewable files on Vimeo, YouTube, or the applicant's website.
  - An exhibition proposal that describes how the exhibition will look and includes a proposed layout of the gallery space.
  - Website or blog links (provide access passwords where relevant)
  - Proof of Public Liability Insurance (PLI) for exhibition installation or the intention to secure PLI if successful.

## **Gallery Specifications**

- The gallery has approximately 33 linear meters of exhibition space and 109m<sup>2</sup> of floor space. Exhibition walls are approximately 4M high. Hanging artworks from the ceiling is limited, but there is some opportunity to do so.
- Exhibition changeovers for the Community Gallery are limited to a 5-day working week, inclusive of de-installation of the previous exhibition and patch & paint.
- Artworks can be affixed directly to walls, but artworks cannot be affixed to the floor. Any 3D artworks must be free standing or be displayed on a plinth. Some plinths and shelves may be available.
- There is limited capacity to suspend artwork from the ceiling. Works must be less than 2kgs.
- Some audio/visual equipment and media-based projects can be accommodated.
- There are power points spaced out regularly throughout the gallery.
- The perimeter walls within the provided floorplan are what is available, additional walls cannot be added.
- SAM is lit by ERCO adjustable track lighting. The gallery has a window, Northeast facing, that can be closed.

- SAM is an air-conditioned venue with some temperature and humidity-controlled spaces. The Community Gallery does not have specific temperature and humidity-control but is part of the general regulated climate of the building.
- Community Gallery exhibitions are open to visitors during advertised Gallery hours and do not need to be staffed by exhibiting artists.
- For your reference there are some photos of the gallery below and a floorplan on the following page. Please note:
  - An A1 signage panel will need to be included in the exhibition.
  - Wall 2 has a sensor that cannot be obscured.
  - Anything hung on Wall 6 cannot impede foot traffic into the space.



Wall 2



Wall 6

See next page for a Floor Plan

Questions? Email Caroline Esbenshade, Curator – Community at [cesbenshade@sheppartonartmuseum.com.au](mailto:cesbenshade@sheppartonartmuseum.com.au)

Application form is available online via [sheppartonartmuseum.com.au](http://sheppartonartmuseum.com.au)