

SAM Spotlight Application Guidelines

SAM Spotlight is an exhibition opportunity open to individual artists living, working, or studying in the Goulburn Valley region. The selected artist will be supported by Shepparton Art Museum to create a body of artwork for a solo show.

Application fee: \$44.00 inc. GST

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

Successful applicant will receive

- An artist fee of \$1,000.00 plus additional financial support for artwork production.
- A 10-week+ exhibition at SAM
- Support from the SAM Exhibitions Team to produce and install the 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, Indigo, Mansfield, Mitchell, Moira, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta, and Wodonga.
- Applicants must be 20 years of age or older at the time of applying.
- Applicants must be an emerging artist who fit the following criteria:
 - Have undertaken specialised training in an artistic field, but not necessarily from a tertiary institution.
 - Can be represented or unrepresented by a commercial gallery and/or exhibit with a commercial gallery, but not had a solo exhibition at a regional or state public gallery in Victoria.
- 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 (i.e. 2023 – 2025).
- Applicants cannot be full-time employees of Shepparton Art Museum or members of SAM Ltd and SAM Foundation Boards and their advisory committees.
- Applicants must submit original work and be able to show a sustained commitment to their practice.

- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria requirements will not be considered.

Selection Criteria

The selection panel will be considering the following criteria:

- That the exhibition proposal considers and is appropriate for the gallery space.
- That the applicant has a demonstrated commitment to their creative practice.
- The applicant's art portfolio is of high artistic merit and the opportunity will benefit the artist's professional development.
 - Artworks included in the portfolio must be the applicant's original artwork and representative of the applicant's current studio practice. In general, artworks included should be less than 5 years old, but consideration will be given for materials and individual practices.
 - If artworks have been previously exhibited, please note where and when.
 - Artworks in the portfolio can be of any medium, such as painting, photography, ceramics, bronze, woodwork, watercolour, graphite, charcoal, stone, video, and graphic design.
- The merit of the proposed exhibition idea or concept that the artist wishes to develop further in collaboration with SAM's Curator – Community.
- The Selection Panel will also be evaluating the applicant's ability to produce an exhibition of new artworks or build on an existing body of artwork. Availability to make the necessary time commitment will be considered.

Selection process

Once applications have closed:

- SAM will convene the Selection Panel to review and assess all SAM Spotlight 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 7 days. After this time, SAM will approach another applicant to exhibit or make alternative arrangements.

- All SAM Spotlight 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 biography and statement
- An artist CV - no more than 2 pages
- An artist portfolio as a .pdf that includes no more than 8 artworks and includes the artworks' title, medium, year and dimensions. For moving image, performance, or sound artworks a still and a link to viewable files on Vimeo, YouTube, or the applicant's website must be provided.
- A brief proposal of the exhibition and artworks you plan to show and/or create.
- Statement of availability. Few people are able to be full-time artists, particularly at the emerging stage. SAM acknowledges this and understands that applicants will have other commitments that will impact their availability to produce a new body of artwork within one year. The application will request that you outline your availability for the program, such as how many hours a week you devote to your studio practice currently, if you'll be able to increase that, and/or if you plan to include artwork already made or started.

Questions? Email the team at forartists@sheppartonartmuseum.com.au

Terms & Conditions

1. Entrants and Applicants acknowledge and agree that they enter and participate in the Community Gallery programs entirely at their own risk and SAM accepts no liability whatsoever for any damage caused or loss suffered as a result of the entrant's entry and participation in the programs.
2. Application fees are non-refundable. If submitted works or proposals are not selected for exhibition, application fees will not be refunded.
3. SAM may request proof of age, address, working, or studying within the region and retains the right to make a submission ineligible if proof is not supplied.
4. The applicant warrants that the submitted artwork is original work and does not infringe copyright, moral rights, or other rights of any third party. The applicant indemnifies Shepparton Art Museum against any loss resulting from breach of these warranties.
5. Artists retain copyright of their artwork.

6. Successful entrants and applicants grant SAM a non-exclusive and royalty-free license to display, publish, cause to be published or otherwise use the application images to promote the Community Gallery program in promotional material, including on SAM's website, social media pages, and print.
7. Work for all programs must be delivered ready to hang. No wet work will be accepted and anything electrical must be tagged and tested prior to delivery.
8. Artworks that include hazardous materials, rust, or untreated organic material such as wood, plants, or animal matter may be ineligible for exhibition within the Community Gallery. Please contact the Curator – Community to discuss your work's eligibility. Treated, commercially available organic material, such as timber from Bunnings, is acceptable.
9. SAM retains the right to make the final decision of which artworks will be included and the layout of exhibitions.
10. SAM reserves the right to change the dates, alter, or cancel exhibitions.

Hugh DT Williamson Community Gallery
Level 2

The gallery has 36.22 linear meters of exhibition walls and 109 m² of floor space.

Exhibition walls consist of 25mm Plywood covered by 10mm of Plasterboard.

There are facilities to accommodate Audio/Visual equipment and ceiling suspension ports.

