

Tips for Submitting Performance Art to the VAV Gallery

The following is a list of questions to ask yourself in preparing a submission for a performance piece to the VAV Gallery.

Remember you don't have to answer every single one of the questions below. Just focus on what's relevant to your work.

Someone who has never seen your work should be able to look at your submission and understand what you are proposing and why.

Clear proposals.

What are you proposing to present in the gallery?

Is it scripted or unscripted?

Is it multimedia; if so what does it entail? (ie. what media and equipment?)

Are there particular objects or visual elements involved?

Will any of these objects or visuals stay visible in the gallery before or after the performance?

Does your work involve live interaction with any potentially messy substances that may require cleaning? (ie paint, water, etc)

Is there music/audio? Or live vocalisations? Do you need a microphone?

Will the audio remain before or after the performance?

How many performers/artists will be involved? In what capacity?

What is your relationship to the audience?

Is there a participatory/interactive element?

Does it have a clear start and finish?

Can it be ongoing in the background or does it need the audience's attention?

Clear requirements.

What do you need from the gallery to make this work possible?

How much space does the work take up?

Is it a durational piece or does it have a specific time frame?

Are you able to source your own material (i.e. projector, television) if the gallery cannot provide it?

Feasibility.

How does your work fit into the gallery space?

Take into consideration that the gallery offers a shared exhibition space.

Consider the amount of space you require for your work to exist in a group show setting.

There are no gallery attendants to open/shut down elements of your work, think of how to facilitate this on your own.

Specify if any sound remnant of your performance can be presented on headphones; individual sound environments within the gallery space are hard to accommodate.

Clear description.

What is your piece like?

What aesthetic or artistic qualities does it have?

Does it have a particular mood or emotion?

If it has multiple sections/parts, describe them.

What senses does it engage?

What affect is created?

Clear description (cont'd).

What is your piece like?

Who has done similar work to your piece in art history and what does your work add to it differently?

Does your work use styles/traditions of a particular culture? If so, speak briefly to your relationship to that culture/positionality with regards to it. Is this a culture you identify with? Have you considered the question of cultural appropriation within your work?

Theme.

What is the intention behind your piece?

Knowing the theme behind a work helps us curate by relating it to other works. It also helps us understand your choices and their value.

Why are you doing this project?

Is there is a theme, multiple themes, or message in the work?

Is the work is an exploration of a particular theory or formal aspect of performance art?

If the work is about the process of its creation? If so, describe this process.

Does your work have a specific aesthetic within art history?

Do you have any major influences/inspirations for this work that you'd like to mention?

How can we see these intentions/practices in the work itself?

Why you? Why now? Why this?

Clear documentation.

Telling us about it is great but showing us always helps!

Whether that means sharing video or photos of the performance, audio clips for the performance, images or source material that you are working from.

Something tangible to support your description always helps.

Mention what your documentation is, especially if it is not a direct documentation of the work itself.

Ex. “This is a photoshoot I did to evoke the visual identity of my performance piece entitled _____.”

“This is a video of me rehearsing the piece, please note that the live piece will be different in _____ (this and that way).”

Thanks for reading! We look forward to your submission!

