Student Paintings, Tattoo Artists, and Scientists: the Rutgers University Art Library
Exhibition Spaces

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Citation to this Version: Lotts, Megan. Student Paintings, Tattoo Artists, and Scientists: the Rutgers University Art Library

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Student paintings, tattoo artists, and scientists: the Rutgers university art library exhibition spaces by Megan Lotts

WHY WAS THIS SPACE CREATED

- I was looking to find ways to further connect with the departments to whom I liaise (Art History, Digital Filmmaking, Landscape Architecture, and Mason Gross Visual Artists)
- Elevate the importance of the scholarly work being created in the Arts on the Rutgers campuses.
- Provide an opportunity for artist to exhibit their work.
- Provide the Art Library intern an opportunity to curate an exhibition.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE SPACE

- 38 exhibits
- Little to no fiscal cost, other than time.
- Built closer connections with MGVA, LA, and Arts communities on the RU campuses.
- Partnerships with multiple departments including: Brigham Young University Humanities Center’s Archipelagoes, Center for Women in the Arts & Humanities, Hammarskjold Middle School in East Brunswick, NJ, Institute for Research on Women, Jersey Collective, Mason Gross Visual Artists, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Research Collaboratory for Structural Bioinformatics, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of New Jersey, Rutgers Brodsky Center, Rutgers Faculty & Staff artists, Rutgers Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers Poetry club, School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program, Rutgers Theater Department, and The Centers for the Global Advancement and International Affairs at Rutgers.
- http://libguides.rutgers.edu/eventsandexhibits
- Provide an opportunity for Rutgers students, faculty, and staff to exhibit their work.
- Many exhibitors have learned more about installing an exhibit from creation to consumption, including installation, marketing, and reception planning.
- Provides an opportunity for individuals to view artworks in person as opposed to studying an image in a book.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN

- You don’t need a lot of money.
- Cross-disciplinary collaboration is good. Partnerships can help share the fiscal and labor costs. As well as, help with promotion and attendance to events.
- Marketing & Outreach.
- Create a proposal process & challenge process.
- Consider an intern or reference assistant who can help with planning and coordinating exhibitions & events.

CONCLUSION

- Exhibition spaces can be a great way to connect with individuals and create community within ones library.
- Exhibition spaces can highlight the materials found in local library collections.
- Exhibition spaces provided artists an opportunity to share their work & learn more about the exhibition process.
- Exhibition spaces can be a hands on way of educating patrons about the Arts.

ASSESSMENT

- Surveys at events.
- Stories and interactions from exhibitions, events, and receptions.
- Monitoring the RUL and other Rutgers social media pages for comments and likes.
- Publicity in local media sources.