



# Compton Verney Exhibitions policy

## Introduction

Compton Verney is an award winning independent art gallery with a deservedly high reputation for the quality of its temporary exhibitions, which are the main driver of visits. It receives no regular government funding.

Temporary exhibitions play a vital role at Compton Verney in strengthening and increasing audiences, and in making a significant contribution to the cultural landscape of Warwickshire and the wider region. Compton Verney is committed to developing a stimulating, imaginative and popular programme of ambitious exhibitions incorporating the best of historic, modern and contemporary art.

The programme has included survey shows, thematic shows which explore familiar themes in novel, unexpected ways (sometimes related to the collections), and single person or paired shows by artists of the highest popular, historical and/or critical profile.

For every temporary exhibition, we strive to maintain international standards of display, design and interpretation.

## Criteria for selection

During the open season (February/March to December), Compton Verney presents between two and six exhibitions.

Exhibitions are selected against a range of criteria:

- Mission - exhibitions must support the mission of Compton Verney which is to share our passion for art with as many people as possible. This criteria also helps to ensure our financial sustainability.
- Audience - exhibitions must be sufficiently high profile or engaging to drive ambitious visitor targets from our core audience of 'cultural generalists' - people who are interested, but not specialists, in art.
- Quality of content/concept – exhibitions need to have depth, originality, intellectual rigour and include loans or commissions of the highest quality.
- Profile – exhibitions must be of sufficient status to maintain our profile as a dynamic, ambitious organisation and as a key regional destination.
- Funding – exhibitions will be assessed against a cost/benefit analysis and the ability of the project to attract external funds. Exhibitions must be delivered within available resources and budget constraints, covering all aspects of exhibition

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production including technical support, transport of art work, installation, design, marketing and learning.

- Balance – a balanced programme over 2-3 years represents different art forms, periods, subjects, artists, themes and so on. We aim to initiate at least one exhibition per season.
- Schedule and timing – exhibitions are planned between one and five years ahead to facilitate funding and internal planning. The attractiveness of an exhibition to a family or formal education audience, as well as to our core audience, will have an effect on dates and timing. Exhibitions are always timed to open in time for major school holidays.

We regularly receive external proposals. These are taken to monthly exhibition planning meetings and to two-monthly Senior Management Team Meetings. Internal proposals are originated via Exhibition Proposal Forms.

## Further Information

### **Exhibition Spaces**

The temporary exhibition spaces at Compton Verney are built to the highest specifications and meet Government Indemnity Standards for environmental control and security.

### **Art in the Grounds**

Compton Verney is set in 120 acres of Grade II listed 'Capability' Brown designed parkland which offers a magnificent setting and context for art and artists. A strategy for the commissioning and display of art in the grounds is currently being developed, in support of the Collections and Grounds offer.

### **Partnerships and touring**

Regional, national and occasional international partnerships help maintain the profile and high standards of exhibitions at Compton Verney and are an increasingly important means of joint promotion and reaching new audiences, of sharing expertise and resources. Compton Verney is actively involved in touring exhibitions both as an originator and as a host venue. Current exhibition partners and other touring venues we are working with include Tate, the British Museum, the Laing, Turner Contemporary, the RSC and the BBC.

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