

Call for 2025 exhibition applications

The Counihan Gallery is now accepting applications for our 2025 exhibition program. Submit your application by 5pm, Friday 28 June 2024.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Counihan Gallery acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways in the area known as Merri-bek. We recognise their continuous connection to culture, community and Country and embrace their traditional and contemporary creative expression. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and to all First Nations people who are part of the community today.

About the Counihan Gallery

The Counihan Gallery opened in 1999 and is located at the heart of Sydney Road's thriving arts and culture precinct. We are named in honour of the Australian artist and activist Noel Counihan (1913-1986), who was a champion of social justice and a vocal supporter of free speech. Our exhibition program reflects our commitment to political activation, sustainability, and creative expression.

Visit our [What's on at the Counihan Gallery page](#) to see what kind of exhibitions and programs we present.

Counihan Gallery contact information	
In person	233 Sydney Road, Brunswick, VIC 3056 Wednesday to Saturday, 11am to 5pm Sunday 1pm to 5pm
Phone	03 9389 8622
Email	CounihanGallery@Merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Front cover credit:

Installation view of *K is for Kitab Tabakh* by Deanna Hitti, 2024. Photo: Simon Fazio

How to apply

Submit your application online using our [Exhibition Application Form on SnapForms](#). SnapForms is an online survey platform.

For a Microsoft Word Document or PDF version of this form, please contact the Gallery at CounihanGallery@Merri-bek.vic.gov.au or on 9389 8622.

Application deadline

Applications can be submitted at any time during the proposals period but will only be assessed after the application deadline. The application deadline is **Friday 28 June 2024, 5pm**.

Accessibility information

We are committed to accessibility. We encourage applications from d/Deaf and Disabled artists. We endeavour to meet the access requirements of all exhibitors. If your application is successful, we offer resourcing to support your access requirements.

If you would like to submit a hardcopy application, video application or an application in an alternative format, please contact us at CounihanGallery@Merri-bek.vic.gov.au or on 9389 8622.

For more information about the accessibility of the Counihan Gallery venue, please visit [our Access and Inclusion at the Counihan Gallery page of our website](#).

Information Session

A free Information Session explaining the Counihan Gallery exhibition application process will be held at the Counihan Gallery on Thursday 6 June at 6pm.

This presentation will be interpreted in Auslan. A captioned recording of this program will be made available on Instagram and Facebook.

This Information Session includes the opportunity to ask questions.

Selection criteria

We are looking for exhibition applications that:

- Focus on social, political, environmental or cultural commentary in line with the [Gallery's vision and objectives](#)
- Demonstrate innovation and quality in visual arts practice
- Present a coherent body of work
- Include high-quality artwork images
- Consider how the project will engage the Merri-bek community

The Counihan Gallery, in line with Merri-bek City Council's Human Rights Policy priority groups, strongly encourages applications from artists who identify as culturally and linguistically diverse, LGBTQI plus, d/Deaf and/or Disabled, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Please see [Merri-bek's Human Rights Policy](#) for more information.

Who assesses the exhibition applications?

Exhibition proposals are assessed by a selection panel that includes Merri-bek Council officers, members of the Merri-bek Arts Advisory Committee, and independent arts professionals. The decision of the selection panel is final.

Exhibition honorariums

We pay artists an honorarium of \$1000 for an exhibition.

This honorarium is paid per exhibition space, not per artist.

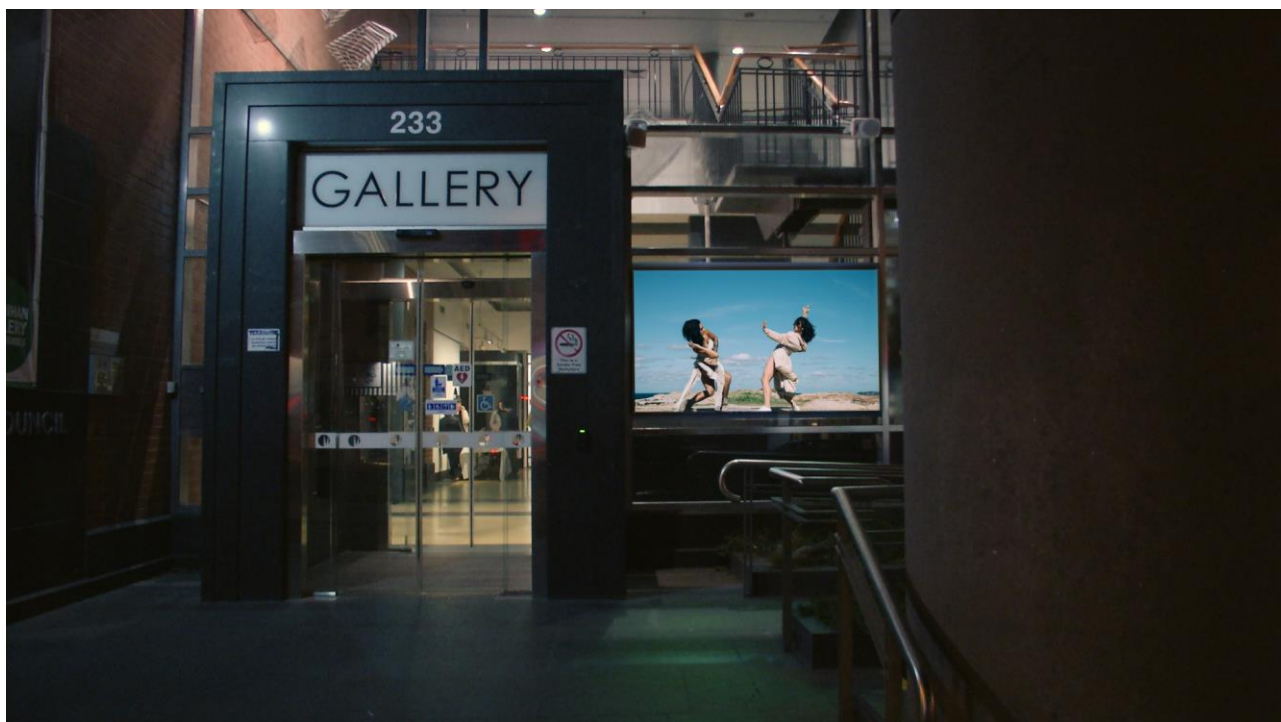
You can apply for Gallery 1, Gallery 2, or both. Only group exhibitions will be programmed across both galleries.

The Night Screen is a projector screen facing Sydney Road. Projections run from 5pm to 11pm, nightly in August.

The Gallery is closed on some public holidays, which may affect the number of days an exhibition is open to the public.

A Gallery [floor plan](#) is available at the end of this application pack.

Gallery	Location	Honorarium	Exhibition duration
Gallery 1	Middle/entry exhibition space, which includes the glass vitrine	\$1000	Approximately 12 weeks
Gallery 2	Rear exhibition space	\$1000	
Gallery 1 and 2	All of the above	\$2000	
Night Screen	A projector screen facing onto Sydney Road	\$250	2 weeks, August only
Front Gallery	Front/window exhibition space	Not available	Programmed separately by invitation



View of the Winter Night Screen, 2017. *sometimes I want bell hooks but what I really need is better Te Reo (a body of work), Amrita Hepi.* Photo: Sam Mapplebeck.

Merri-bek grants and external funding

Merri-bek City Council provides several grant programs to support community and/or arts initiatives. Merri-bek City Council funding applications can be made for public programs or activities associated with the exhibition.

Applications for Merri-bek grants are separate to applications for exhibitions at the Counihan Gallery, and the success of one does not guarantee the success of the other.

When applying for exhibitions at the Gallery it is expected that the proposed exhibition will be undertaken whether funding is approved or not. The Gallery can provide a letter of support for funding applications (for external funding agencies) where required. The name Counihan Gallery must not be used in any grant or sponsorship application without the written approval of the Gallery Curator.

Exhibition application checklist

Applications close at 5pm, Friday 28 June.

Ensure your application is submitted before the closing date.

The [Exhibition Application Form](#) will ask for the below information:

- Your current contact details
 - If applying for a group show, please choose one person to be the main contact and group coordinator for the exhibition
- Full names of all contributing artists and/or curators
- An exhibition title
- 10 images
 - Please upload images as JPEGs or PNGs. We do not accept HEIC files
 - We understand that you may not have completed the work you are proposing to exhibit. If this is the case, please include a selection of images that best represent your practice. You may also wish to include diagrams of proposed works or works-in-progress
- Video files must be MP4, MOV or AVI files and no longer than 5 minutes
- The Gallery space you prefer to exhibit in
- The time of year you would prefer to exhibit in
- One sentence summing up your project
- A 250-word project description, which outlines the ideas and themes of your project and how it would be suited to the Counihan Gallery and the Merri-bek community
- A 150-word exhibition design description explaining how the work will look when installed. Please outline any technical requirements
- A current CV or links to artist websites or social media handles
- Additional material in the form of plans or drawings to support your written proposal (optional)

Floorplan

All measurements are in centimetres. 1:88

