

Elisabeth C. Miller Library Art Exhibit Policy

The Miller Library at the Center for Urban Horticulture is part of the Seattle Botanic Gardens. The library emphasizes horticulture, botany, plant ecology, and garden design. We serve students, faculty and staff of the University of Washington and other regional schools, professional horticulturists and garden designers, and especially the public. Exhibiting art enables us to celebrate local artists who share our love of plants, gardens, and nature. Art can be both educational and inspiring, drawing the community into the library throughout the year.

ACCEPTANCE PROCESS

Contact Information: Nick Williams, Special Collections Librarian
nwilliams@seattlebg.org

As of Fall 2026, we have changed our acceptance process. Now, there is an annual call for artists for the upcoming year, as described below.

SUBJECT/SCOPE OF ART

The library exhibits artwork that has some connection to plants, landscapes, and gardens, which may be interpreted and depicted in a wide range of ways, anywhere on a continuum from realism to abstraction, using a wide range of materials. We have shown photography, botanical illustration, felt and textile works, basketry, sculpture, artist books, and more. All pieces are subject to Library staff approval. While individual pieces may not directly connect to the library's focus, the majority of pieces in an exhibition must do so.

PROCESS FOR APPLICATION

As of Fall 2026, the library conducts an annual submission period for artists for the upcoming year. This change was made due to the volume of artists interested in exhibiting in order to make the process more equitable.

Artists interested in exhibiting their work must fill out the following form:

[Call for Artist Applications at the Elisabeth C. Miller Library – Fill out form](#)

The window for submitting applications begins at 9am Pacific on 1 September 2026 and ends at 5pm Pacific on 30 September 2026.

Once the application period has ended, the exhibition organizers will review all applications to determine which artists will be offered exhibitions during the 2027 year. Selection criteria will include: appropriateness of work for the library's focus; artistic merit; and logistical considerations for the exhibition calendar. Other considerations for the overall exhibition calendar include breadth of mediums and styles and inclusion of both new and returning artists. Artists who submitted an application can expect to hear from the library regarding their decision by 15 October 2026.

DISPLAY SPACES AVAILABLE: [See photos of spaces here.](#)

1. entryway display cases: four lockable cabinets with glass shelves and doors
2. on top of the low filing cabinet in the library entry
3. two lockable rectangular museum cases
4. tops of four low bookshelves, limited to 50% of the horizontal space to preserve library sight lines and work surfaces
5. ends of tall bookshelves, eight spaces, depending on size of art
6. wall across from the reference desk and wall and countertop next to display cabinets; back west wall, replacing the permanent art
7. hanging from wooden beams
8. No new holes may be made to hang art

The library has some supplies for hanging art on the bookcase end-caps, and easels in several sizes for shelf top displays. You are responsible for any additional hardware, hanging the art, and taking it down. All work must be labeled, including prices on all work that is for sale. The library is open to the public during set-up. People want to know about you and your work, so please provide an artist statement.

MEET THE ARTIST EVENTS

If an artist wishes to have a public event for members of the community to meet and talk with them, they are more than welcome to do so. Plans will be discussed while finalizing logistics for their exhibition. In general, Meet the Artist events run about 2-3 hours during normal library open hours. The form these events take is up to the artist and may include informal conversation, formal talks/Q&A's, demonstrations, etc. The library will reserve the library's program room for use during these events. Artists may bring light refreshments if they would like to do so. Please note that alcohol is not permitted at these events. The library can supply tablecloths, small serving plates, utensils, and napkins.

MARKETING/PUBLICITY

The Library will announce the exhibit in the Miller Library *Leaflet* and website and elsewhere as appropriate. You are welcome to advertise beyond these publications, but please allow us to proofread any prospective press release or mailing. Please send to nwilliams@seattlebg.org. You may produce and print a flyer or postcard but please allow us to check it for accuracy first.

SELLING ART

We strongly prefer that some of the work be available for purchase. Pieces that are for sale should have labels with titles and prices. If all pieces have the same price, that information may be inserted into the artist bio/exhibit introduction sheet. The Library does not automatically take a percentage of your sales, but a 25% donation is suggested and appreciated. The Library does not collect sales taxes, so please round up your pricing to accommodate taxes. Any donation made is matched by the Miller Foundation Challenge grant. Library staff will collect payments for sold pieces, and hold the checks and cash for you to collect. It is helpful to provide us with an inventory of the art to help keep track of any purchases.