

Lewis Glucksman Gallery

Education Policy

1. Introduction and Context

The Lewis Glucksman Gallery is a cultural and educational institution that promotes the research, creation and exploration of the visual arts. The learning programmes at the Glucksman link the educational mission of the University to the cultural life of the region and have three core objectives:

Firstly, in conjunction with the gallery's artistic programme, **to foster scholarship in a new environment placing particular emphasis on the unique role of visual media in communicating knowledge.** Central to this is the creation of discursive relationships between academic disciplines and art practice. This is reflected in a specific emphasis on interdisciplinary exchange between visual art and other areas of expertise within the university community, and through support for academic curricula contributing to the instruction of visual culture on campus.

Secondly, **to enable students, University staff and community groups to access different aspects of visual art.** This includes a wide range of outreach and access initiatives that encourage learning, exchange, conversation and collaboration about art.

Thirdly, **to foster an understanding of visual culture among the wider public** through a programme of exhibition-related events, workshops, courses, seminars and discussions.

The Lewis Glucksman Gallery has developed a number of programmes that endeavor to achieve these aims. These have included outreach programmes to invite participation amongst new audiences (**Community Art**, 2013-14), public live music sessions (**Lunchtime Concerts**, 2011-present), dedicated collaborations with schools (tours, workshops) and research materials and publications that encourage a greater understanding of artworks in the University College Cork Art Collection (**podcast series**, 2014-15).

The Glucksman has also initiated several programmes that invite UCC faculty members to contribute to a wider, interdisciplinary understanding of visual art, including **In Detail** (2009-present), a series of lunchtime discussions between lecturers and curators on a specific artwork, **Tangents** (2009-present), dedicated panel discussions on a theme relating to the current exhibition, and **Glucksman futures** (2012-present), a programme of workshops and lectures with postgraduate students introducing them to curatorial practices. Through collaboration with institutions and bodies such as CIT / Crawford College of Art & Design, Cork City Council and National Sculpture Factory, the Glucksman has developed programmes of artists talks addressing pertinent issues in contemporary art (**Perspectives**, 2009-present) and thematic symposiums exploring issues relating to education (**Assembly: School as a Social Environment**, 2011) and photography (**Developing Pictures**, 2012).

The Glucksman has also introduced new audiences to visual art throughout its history, offering a wide range of workshops and tours to school and community groups as well as its ongoing **Kids Club** workshops for young people. These programmes of practical activities also include **Art Club Senior** for participants aged 55+ (2010-present), **Pencil It In** lunchtime drawing classes (2011-present), and free **Family Sunday** workshops for families (2011-present).

2. Education Mission Statement

The Lewis Glucksman Gallery enhances the cultural and intellectual life of the University College Cork community and the wider region through the exhibition and interpretation of art. It actively engages student participation in its programmes and provides a significant resource for the teaching and research of visual culture on campus.

3. Aims and Objectives

- Aim: Enhance staff and student engagement
- Objective: To create teaching and learning opportunities in the gallery in conjunction with UCC staff
- Objective: To enable the UCC academic community to communicate their research to the wider public through the gallery's exhibition and education programme
- Objective: To facilitate student participation in gallery activities through undergraduate and postgraduate internships
- Objective: To provide curatorial research opportunities for UCC staff and students
- Objective: To develop the University Art Collection and Glucksman's curatorial programme as a teaching resource
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- Aim: Increase public awareness and participation in gallery programme
- Objective: Programme informative and interesting events for different levels of art expertise
- Objective: To develop and implement a new media strategy in order to maximise the benefit of public engagement with the gallery across a range of digital platforms
- Objective: To secure funding for audience development projects.
- Objective: To create joint marketing and programming initiatives with community and cultural partners to target and share audiences
- Objective: To increase participation from families, young people and the senior community in Cork

4. Target Audiences

The policy aims to invite all audiences to participate in the programme and to gain a greater understanding of artistic practices and strategies, at a practical, conceptual and curatorial level. As part of the University College Cork, we are also committed to encouraging audiences from both within and outside of the University to engage with visual art as an academic and educational discipline. A number of our programmes for schools and young people are similarly concerned with the notion of visual literacy and representation. Our audiences consist of a range of groups, including:

- University College Cork student body
- University College Cork staff (academic, administrative and visiting researchers)
- Third level staff and students, nationwide
- School Groups (Primary and Secondary), regional
- Community Groups (all ages), regional
- Young People, local
- Senior Communities, local
- Families, local
- Arts / Specialist (audiences familiar with visual art), national and international
- Architects, national and international
- Visitors and tourists to Cork city

The Glucksman Education programme is tailored to meet the varying needs of these disparate audiences. Workshops and events are specifically programmed with these audiences in mind and are intended to encourage both practical and theoretical engagement with visual art and interdisciplinary practices.

5. Provision and Resources

The Glucksman provides a wide-ranging programme of events utilising the gallery space and surrounding University campus. We encourage the use of the Glucksman's unique architecture in our workshops, tours and courses, and make substantial use of the skills and knowledge of our staff in delivering the educational programme.

We work closely with local, practising artists in delivering courses and workshops that offer a hands-on approach to making art. Similarly, we collaborate with a number of departments within University College Cork in encouraging academics and audiences from non-art backgrounds to offer their own perspectives.

In promoting and communicating our programme, we work wherever possible with existing events and festivals (i.e. Culture Night, Heritage Week, Cork Midsummer Festival) to maximize interest and awareness. The Glucksman Education programme is marketed through print and posters, e-bulletins, press outlets, the Glucksman website and general mail-outs. We also maintain a facebook page, twitter account and culturefox account to distribute details of our exhibitions, education and events. Events open to the general public are promoted through all available mediums, while age or audience-specific events are targeted to their respective groups.

6. Performance indicators

Indicators of success or failure of educational programmes are determined through evaluation of attendance figures and bookings against regular attendance figures of gallery visits (i.e. non-event related). In addition, the Glucksman surveys visitors on an ongoing basis and encourages visitors to respond via cards inviting them to share their experiences of exhibitions and events.

7. Periodic review of Education Policy

The Glucksman Education policy is reviewed annually by the Programme Committee in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Glucksman Strategic Management Plan. Any changes recommended to the agreed policy are then brought to the Board of Directors for approval, and if agreed, incorporated into the Glucksman's annual 1-Year Implementation Plans.

The education programmes are subject to regular review by the curatorial team (Director, Senior Curator and Curator of Education) and discussed at least annually by the Programme Committee. In addition, evaluation sheets are provided to participants in the education programmes and where possible, external expertise and peer review panels are convened to evaluate specific strands of programming.

Date approved:

The current policy was approved by the Board of Directors of the Lewis Glucksman Gallery on:

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Education Policy: Appendix 1

One-year action plan (including staffing and resources)

3.1 To create teaching and learning opportunities in the gallery in conjunction with UCC staff

- 3.1.1 Regularly evaluate exhibition programme for areas of specific departmental interest
- 3.1.2 Establish a record of formal teaching provided by Glucksman staff across the four colleges
- 3.1.3 Support Jennings Gallery in its mission to promote and support visual literacy and creative growth among the staff, students and graduates of the College of Medicine and Health
- 3.1.4 Actively contribute to postgraduate teaching across the University

Resources: Curatorial Team

Timeline: Ongoing

3.2 To enable the UCC academic community to communicate their research to the wider public through the gallery's exhibition and education programme

- 3.2.1 Invite participation from all four colleges in gallery programmes
- 3.2.2 Continue with programme strands such as In Detail and Tangents that are dedicated to the dissemination of UCC research

Resources: Curatorial Team

Timeline: Ongoing

3.3 To facilitate student participation in gallery activities through undergraduate and postgraduate internships

- 3.3.1 Continue to offer formal student internship programme in full co-operation with relevant UCC staff

Resources: Senior Curator with UCC Works Steering Committee

Timeline: October 2012

- 3.3.2 Continue to offer project internships to postgraduate UCC students

Resources: Curatorial Team

Timeline: Every exhibition period evaluated for potential internship opportunities.

- 3.3.3 Continue to work with International Education Office to promote gallery to JYA and visiting students

Resources: Curator of Education

Timeline: Ongoing

3.4 To provide curatorial research opportunities for UCC staff and students

- 3.4.1 Develop curatorial partnerships with academic colleagues
- 3.4.2 Create dedicated access to gallery and collection research materials and archives
- 3.4.3 Develop the University Art Collection as a research resource online through podcasts and social media.

Resources: Curatorial Team

Timeline: Ongoing

3.5 To develop the University Art Collection and Glucksman's curatorial programme as a teaching resource

3.5.1 Make images of the collection and gallery exhibitions available to UCC community through podcasts and social media

Resources: Curatorial Team

Timeline: Ongoing

3.5.2 Rotate and exhibit images of the University Art Collection online through social media

Resources: Curatorial Team

Timeline: Ongoing

3.5.3 Provide a dedicated learning programme for emerging curators

Resources: Curatorial Team

Timeline: Continue to annually offer Glucksman futures and CIT/CCAD MA in Art & Process modules.