

GroundWork Gallery Environmental policy 2020-2021

General Mission

GroundWork Gallery is dedicated to the environment in its mission and in all its activities. All exhibitions are about the environment - the main mission of the gallery focuses on exhibiting the work of artists who are concerned about the environment through their work. The gallery engages in associated environmental campaigning. Exhibiting and engagement is underpinned by research and supported by well-researched collaborative work with other organisations and other, contingent disciplines. Even if artists are not explicitly environmental, the gallery is, and undertakes to follow through from what is displayed to engage in relevant dissemination of environmental messages about sustainability and climate change.

Programming

All the programming centres on the environment and specifically:

- alerting audiences to the varying effects of environmental change;
- alerting audiences to the mounting effects of climate change;
- aiming to be effective catalysts for positive change towards environmental sustainability
- aiming to form partnerships with like-minded organisations of all kinds in order to promote environmental sustainability

Diversity

GroundWork is committed to an all-embracing policy of cultural, religious and physical diversity which applies throughout its engagement with ideas and with people and things. GroundWork is actively anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-agist, anti-discriminatory.

Sociability

Community engagement of the most open kind is as important as exhibiting work of the highest quality. Everything the gallery does depends on good and effective community relations in order to discuss and spread the environmental messages.

Environmentally Sustainable Practice

In addition the gallery is committed to environmentally sustainable practice throughout its work. GroundWork commits to reduce its carbon footprint by the following measures:

Carbon Footprint

The gallery is committed to aim constantly to reduce its carbon footprint throughout all its activities. We aim to research those activities, supplies, services, and associations which enable us both to reduce our own carbon footprint, and to send a strong message to others to follow our example.

Under constant review are:

Office procedures
Equipment used
Energy use
Re-use and recycling of equipment and materials where possible
Minimising waste
Travel by public transport where possible
Methods of transport of goods and works of art
Events, where and how they occur
Goods and services
Service providers
Partnerships

Building design & management

The building was designed with low carbon footprint in mind. Good insulation means heating can be kept to a minimum. Recycled materials have been used where possible, for floors and hand-rails.

Exhibiting - practical issues

Preference for low-tech displays.

Use of paper and card rather than plastics and laminates

Recycled materials used where possible

Fuel efficient projection equipment

Re-use & adaptation of all exhibition furniture

Unless it is expedient to save energy through multiples or environmentally sustainable manufacture, preference for the hand-made

Artistic materials & values

Avoidance of plastics where alternatives are available. We do not like to show works which use: acrylics, polymers, plastic glues, laminates

However, plastics retreated as precious materials & jewellery material are OK if recycled (see below re GroundJewels)

Careful about photographic chemicals - check with photographers if their practices are harmful to the environment

GroundJewels

Through our GroundJewels initiative, we have a preference for jewellers who are explicitly environmental in their approach to use of materials and making.

We favour jewellers who are actively rethinking value, preciousness and luxury through their use of low value, humble materials and innovative skills

Events

Pre-Covid GroundWork was committed to organising events in a way compatible with environmental sustainability which included:

Location in places suitable for access by public transport

Timing - so people could arrive comfortably by public transport

Collaborating with other organisations to spread influence and also organisational load and capacity

Minimising need for air-travel

Plant-based food for catering

Post-Covid GroundWork events will be limited to bookable one to ones (workshops and tuition); bookable small-group events conducted in safe socially distanced conditions
Or bigger events on-line.

Heating and lighting / utilities

Use of energy efficient boiler

Under floor heating on ground floor

Low energy light bulbs used

Lights turned off when spaces not in use

Turn off pilot lights at night

Use of materials & supplies

Local supply chains preferred

Eco-sustainable materials - timber etc

Card rather than foam board for labels

Eco-Paint is used - low in plastic content.

Eco-supplies for household - minimal to no harmful chemicals

eg 'harmful to aquatic life with long-term effects' avoided & this includes toilet cleaner and detergents

Recycled toilet paper

Use cloths & towels to be rewashed rather than throw-away disposables

Washable Cotton or bamboo material gloves available for handling
Washable face-masks used, not disposables

Transport

Green transport preferred.
Use courier services which operate according to green principles (eg Fedex)
Postal service preferred for majority of transit
Shared loads if transporting cross-country or internationally
Or transport combined with travel for other purposes

Limit plane travel - no use of planes

Catering and hospitality

Local food and drink preferred
Use plant milk rather than dairy-milk

Penthouse Apartment

The Penthouse is rented for holidays and funds the work of the gallery.
All furnishings and materials have been explicitly chosen for eco-friendliness, good design, hand-made, & local supply-chains
All household materials & soaps are free of harmful chemicals - eg sulphide and paraben free
Disposables - cloths, wipes etc are avoided
Machine aids kept to a minimum (eg no machine coffee-maker)

GroundWork actively promotes the Penthouse as a destination which can be explored on foot, using public transport.

