



SANE AUSTRALIA

Call for submissions from
artists to exhibit
The Dax Centre

Supported by The Vizard Foundation

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Call for submissions from artists
An exhibition exploring the stigma surrounding mental illness
The Dax Centre, Parkville
February-April 2019 (approx. 10 weeks)

Applications open 19th Oct – 30 Nov, 2018

About The Dax Centre:

The Dax Centre is a leader in the use of art to raise awareness and reduce stigma towards mental illness. Through our exhibitions and educational programs we seek to engage, inform and encourage community connections and conversations about mental health.

The Dax Centre houses the Cunningham Dax Collection, which is the largest collection of its kind in the southern hemisphere, and one of only three collections of this type in the world. The Cunningham Dax Collection consists of more than 16,000 artworks created by people who have experienced mental illness or psychological trauma. The Collection includes works on paper, canvases, photographs, textiles, sculptures, installations, artists' books and diaries, digital media and films. The Dax Centre conducts programs that utilise the Cunningham Dax Collection for students at all levels, as well as for the community at large.

The Dax Centre is named after Dr Eric Cunningham Dax (1908–2008). Dr Dax was a pioneer in the introduction of art programs into Victorian psychiatric hospitals for patients living with mental illness. This revolutionary idea resulted in the development of a wide and multifaceted approach using the creative arts to understand mental illness and promote mental health awareness.

Through the exhibition on the topic of Stigma and Mental Illness, we hope to provide artists with lived experience with an important opportunity to have their work exhibited, while advancing the Centre's guiding purpose to reduce stigma towards mental illness and increase awareness.

About the Exhibition:

At The Dax Centre we believe the opportunity to exhibit work and be involved in public programs supporting their work has a real and ongoing impact for artists with lived experience. For this reason, the main objective is to provide an opportunity for four to five artists to present artwork around the theme of stigma for our exhibition, which will run for approximately eight weeks from mid February until Mid April 2019 (exact dates TBC), and will be the centre point of our education program during this time.

This exhibition has been made possible through the generous support of the Vizard Foundation.

Submission guidelines:

Some guidelines around the artwork submissions are:

- The artwork can be an entirely new work or be an existing piece or series, however preference will be given to work not previously exhibited.
- The artwork can be one large piece or a series of smaller artworks.
- The artwork should ideally be two-dimensional, however some 3D art, or works that contain a 3D component could be considered providing they can be installed displayed within the limitations of our gallery space. We also have facilities to display audio-visual artworks.
- The artwork must be completed and available for delivery, photography, installation and display from 1 February 2019 until the end of the exhibition (end of April)
- The artwork will be on display during our peak education time – this includes primary school-aged groups, so artworks should be suitable for a young audience

Desired Exhibition Outcomes:

The aim of this exhibition is to provide artists with lived experience an opportunity to explore and exhibit their practice.

Our ideal outcomes will include providing both the artists and visitors to the gallery with:

- reduced feelings of stigma/self stigma,
- increased knowledge and awareness of complex mental illness,
- connection with others of similar lived experience,
- increased confidence and capacity to seek help.

Stipend:

The main objective of the exhibition is to provide artists with lived experience a platform to exhibit their artwork, increase awareness of the impact of stigma and increase empathy and understanding around mental illness. However, we do value the time and energy that it takes to produce art, therefore a small artist fee of \$560-\$700 will be paid to exhibitors (depending on total number of participants). The exhibitors will also be provided with hard copies of the exhibition catalogue for their archives.

Artwork will be returned to the artists after de-installation as early as reasonably possible.

Eligibility criteria:

- Artists must be people who have lived experience of mental illness or psychological trauma
- Artists must reside in Victoria

- Artists must have an understanding and willingness to share their lived experience journey and story behind the artwork to facilitate the development and provision of the Education and Public programs accompanying the exhibition. Please contact us if you'd like to discuss
- Staff and family of staff members of The Dax Centre and Sane Australia are not eligible to apply.

Application process:

To apply please email the Collections Manager, Julia Young, at julia.young@daxcentre.org for an application form. When submitting your application, please include some images or examples of your current art practice and a brief description. All attachments should be in .docx, .pdf, or .jpg format only.

As we are a small gallery space, we strongly recommend that you visit our gallery or contact us for more information about any size/logistical limitations prior to submitting your application.

All submissions will be treated confidentially and be covered by Sane Australia's Privacy Policy

Application Deadline: Submissions will be accepted from 19th October, until 5pm 30th November, 2018

Selection Process:

Applications will be shortlisted by The Dax Centre curatorial team. The successful applicants will be notified by phone and formal letter.

Exhibition Space:

Please see the map below to get a sense of the exhibition space:

The Dax Centre Gallery Floor Plan

