



Art Policy

The Pierson Library Art Policy provides a framework for the growth and development of exhibitions and collections in support of the library's mission. It is the library's goal to present a diverse Vermont community with artwork and exhibitions that reflect a wide range of views, expressions, opinions and interests. Specific displays may include items that may be unorthodox or unpopular with the majority or controversial in nature. The library's display of these items does not constitute endorsement of their content but rather makes available its expression. Pierson Library adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom, adopted by the American Library Association, as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read and Freedom to View Statements.

Art Program Mission

Pierson Library is dedicated to enriching the library experience of patrons of the Pierson Library by:

- Enhancing community appreciation of the arts.
- Presenting a variety of exhibitions by artists as well as exhibitions of an educational and/or historical significance.
- Providing opportunities for library visitors to encounter original artwork and increase their visual literacy.
- Helping local and regional artists to expand their public exposure while remaining open to artists working on a national or international level.

Exhibitions

Volunteer Art Coordinators from the community, under the direction of the Library Director, are responsible for selecting exhibitions based on the library's needs and appropriateness to the exhibition space available. Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis.

Library Exhibition Spaces

Pierson Library offers several unique locations for exhibiting art:

- A community gallery exhibition space on the first floor with natural light and directional lighting, which can accommodate up to twenty works of 2D artwork.
- A children's gallery in the youth services room for 2D artwork geared toward younger audiences.
- A gallery in the community living room which can accommodate 5-8 pieces of 2D artwork.
- A 2nd floor gallery on the south end of the building that can accommodate 5-8 pieces of 2D artwork.
- The possibility for site-specific installations throughout the library.

Exhibits are typically on display for three months. We remind potential artists that many members of the public, including children and families, use Pierson Library; the Library Director reserves the right to determine what work is appropriate for each space.

Proposals are accepted throughout the year. Shows will generally be booked out six months in advance. The Library Director may use their discretion to address the library's scheduling needs.

Criteria for Selection

General criteria for selecting Library exhibitions are listed below. An item need not meet all of the criteria in order to be acceptable.

- High artistic merit
- Contemporary significance, popular interest or permanent value
- Prominence, authority and/or competence of artist
- Authenticity of historical, regional or social setting
- Works that allow children to display their developing artistic talents to the public

Gifts of Artwork

The library does not accept donations of permanent artwork. We are committed to offering a diverse selection of rotating art to ensure a wide variety of artistic experiences for our community. By regularly changing the artwork on display, we aim to create new experiences for all visitors.

Request for Removal of Artwork

The Library welcomes citizens' expressions of opinion concerning artwork displayed at the library. Requests to remove materials will be considered within the context of the policies set forth in this document. Anyone who wishes to request that a specific item be reconsidered for inclusion in the collection of materials is asked to complete and sign the Request for Reconsideration Form, available at Pierson Library's circulation desk. The form will be forwarded to the Director, who will consider the request in a timely fashion. The questioned material will be reviewed, in its entirety, and once a decision has been made regarding the retention or removal of the material, a letter will be sent to the person, explaining the decision. If the person indicates dissatisfaction with the resolution, he/she may appeal to the Library Board. The Board will reconsider the decision based on whether or not the particular title conforms to the Board-approved Art Policy, as outlined above.

Approved on 4/11/2025