

A Digital Feast for the Eye: A Creative Exploration of Exhibit Potential

Mary and Jeff Bell Library - Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi / TCDL 2021

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Brief History

The Islander Faculty and Staff Art Exhibition highlights the creative works of current or retired faculty and staff from all areas and disciplines at TAMU-CC. Previous exhibits have featured photography, painting, painted ceramics, and crochet items (to name a few). Traditionally, this exhibit has been solely a physical showcase with submitted items displayed in the library's main gallery space.



Hybrid Nature

- Adjustments made for COVID brought new ideas!
- New model - a hybrid approach. Continue with physical exhibit but also host a digital exhibit.
- Expanding beyond our physical footprint.
- Learning and improving as we go!



Something New

- Collaboration and innovation at it's best! Partnered with Special Collections & Archives to utilize an existing library tool: Omeka.
- Used Omeka to host digital form of the exhibit - we knew what we wanted to see, now it was a matter of making it happen!
- Combined what we knew with what we wanted and added a dash of new to make it great!



Human Connection

- We're after a human connection - whether it's the virtual presence, that lets you get engaged (regardless of your location) or having an impactful presence in our physical spaces.
- With more areas opening up, it's time to reclaim our exhibits and connect with our campus community through art!



Preservation

- Previous physical only exhibits would be hosted and then the art would return home (or get sold to a new forever home!)
- Digital element/Omeko now allows better preservation of our exhibits - beyond photos taken of the show itself.
- It's all about preserving our history and now it's all the more feasible with this hybrid approach!

The 2021 Exhibit

This is the 6th year for the exhibit! This year, visitors to the online exhibit will have the opportunity to hear audio recordings of artist statements while physical visitors will get to read these same statements. Additionally, we've also incorporated a digital guestbook where visitors can make comments and even favorite whichever piece they enjoy! The level of engagement and the accessibility of this exhibit has increased thanks to this new hybrid approach. From here, it can only get even better! The exhibit will take place May 7-June 30. To view the digital exhibit, visit: <http://bit.ly.com/TAMUCC-Exhibit>