



Exhibition Assessment

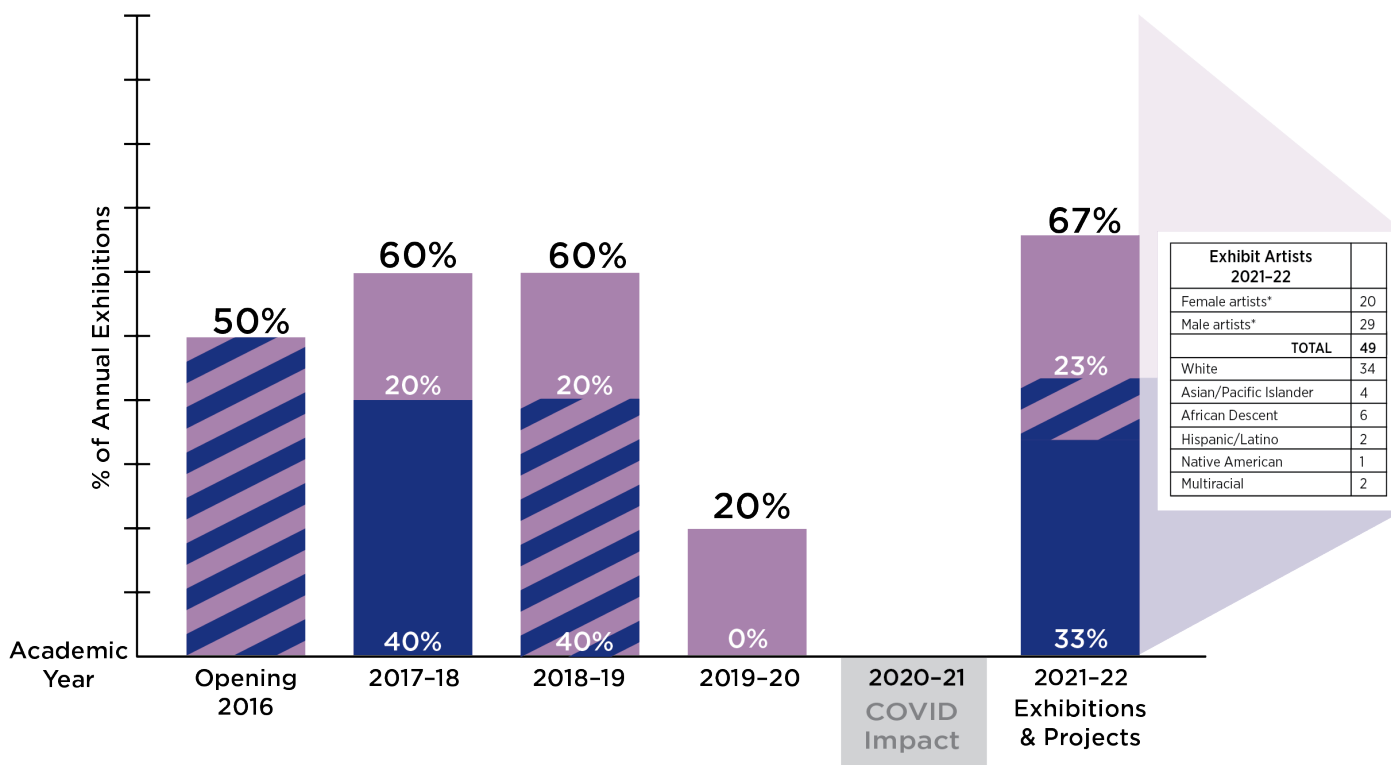
2020–2021

The Manetti Shrem Museum (MSM) curatorial team conducted a comprehensive assessment of the exhibition development process, as defined in the museum’s Anti-Racism Action Plan. Analyzing more than outcomes, the assessment focused on decision-making processes. The exhibition assessment includes MSM’s full history of 33 exhibitions and extends through the current academic year.¹

Manetti Shrem Museum Exhibition Assessment

Exhibitions featuring female artists and artists of color*

Female artists Artists of color



*The artist data collected through 2021-22 is single factor and does not capture information for artists who are transgender or nonbinary. Recognizing the shortcomings of this methodology, MSM has implemented a new multi-factor and inclusive approach to data collection starting in the academic year 2022-23.

¹ The data collected and assessed includes:

- artist demographic data
- exhibition theme, with a special focus on highlighting exhibitions that feature female artists, artists of color and LGBTQIA+ artists
- geographic reach of exhibitions — including issues and artists that are regional, national and international in scope
- racial/ethnic and gender/sexual identity of curators
- comparative analysis of museum investment in individual exhibitions
- space allocation and duration of each exhibition
- investment in scholarship, specifically as expressed in publications

Summary findings indicate the percentage of annual exhibitions that feature female artists, artists of color and LGBTQ+ artists. And the current year includes a breakout on all artists exhibited as a model of how data was assembled and presented.

Please note these are distinct data sets: The bar graph shows the percentage of exhibitions featuring female artists, artists of color and LGBTQ+ artists; the breakout box details the total number of artists whose work was presented this academic year.

MSM's total exhibition history from opening through academic year 2020-21 demonstrates:

- 53% of all exhibitions feature female artists, artists of color and LGBTQ+ artists
- 34% of all artists MSM presents are women
- 37% of all artists MSM presents are artists of color

All exhibitions (group and solo) at MSM fall into three thematic categories:

1. UC Davis Legacy

MSM has performed to its founding commitment to tell the story of UC Davis. * On average, 57% of the exhibitions presented each year showcase the UC Davis Legacy. These exhibitions receive 61% of annual budgets and utilize 65% of gallery square footage.

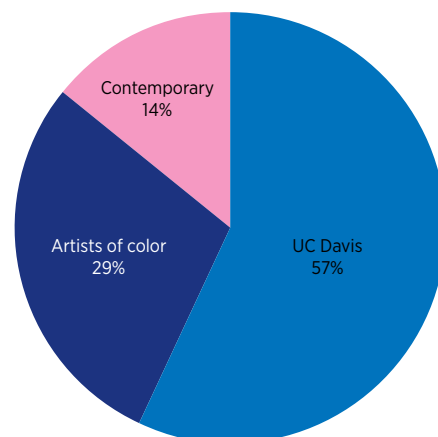
2. Artists of color

Exhibitions featuring artists of color represent 29% of all MSM exhibitions to date. One of the most significant findings of the exhibition assessment is that through academic year 2019-20, there was no crossover between exhibitions that highlight diversity and those that engage the legacy of the UC Davis art department.

Contemporary

Exhibitions that introduce new ideas and new artists to the campus community are the third most prevalent type of exhibition at MSM and represent 14% of all exhibitions to date.²

Annual Exhibitions by Theme



The assessment also closely analyzed solo exhibitions to ensure that attention was applied to these “spotlight” opportunities as well as group exhibitions.

- 38% of MSM's solo exhibitions feature female artists
- 19% of MSM's solo exhibition's feature artists of color
- Budget allocation for solo exhibitions disproportionately prioritizes white male artists. Just 17% of the budget for solo exhibitions was distributed to female artists and artists of color.

The exhibition assessment demonstrated ways in which MSM has perpetuated whiteness and reinforced maleness — in other words, maintained the status quo of most U.S. museums. The assessment established an institutional baseline and set the stage for change.

² None of the artists in the contemporary category has an affiliation with UC Davis. Of course, many of the exhibitions we categorize as UCD Legacy include contemporary artists.

Initial Actions Launched in 2020–21

MSM's percentages of female artists, artists of color and LGBTQ+ artists on view exceed national averages. Nevertheless, these results do not reflect institutional aspirations.³ Therefore, the curatorial team tested new systems to prioritize diversity in decision-making processes.

The dearth of information about artist identity in MSM's Collections database limits curatorial's ability to diversify the exhibition program. As a result, staff restructured the database and developed a protocol to consistently collect artists' demographic information. This year's *Moment to Movement* exhibition serves as a trial, with formal implementation for all exhibitions beginning in 2022–23.

MSM staff presented the above findings to the museum's Leadership Ecosystem, which comprises the Advisory Board, Leadership Collaboration Committee and staff. We engaged in vigorous debate about the opportunities and expense of maintaining an institutional commitment to the UC Davis Legacy.

A strong commitment to the legacy emerged as an important institutional differentiator as well as a key way to align with campus scholarship that emphasizes peripheries' impact on dominant discourse. An important directive from leadership is to expend more resources on identifying diverse and inclusive approaches to UC Davis' Legacy. The 2021–22 exhibitions cited below demonstrate first steps towards what the curatorial team calls a "yes, and" approach that will enact ongoing change.

The annual roster of exhibitions for 2021–22 reflects:

- 75% of exhibitions feature female artists, artists of color and LGBTQ+ artists
- 50% of exhibitions feature artists of color
- 41% of all artists MSM presents are women
- 31% of all artists MSM presents are artists of color

Solo exhibitions in 2021–22 established a baseline for future annual exhibition rosters:

- 100% of solo exhibitions present female artists and artists of color
- Solo exhibitions represent 29% of the annual exhibition roster and consume 27% of annual exhibition budget

Group exhibitions represent 71% of the annual exhibition roster, and two group exhibitions set new institutional standards for diversity.

- *Wayne Thiebaud Influencer*:
 - » 50% are female artists, artists of color and LGBTQ+ artists
 - » 35% female artists
 - » 25% artists of color
- *Moment to Movement*: 87% are female artists, artists of color and LGBTQ+ artists
 - » 50% female artists
 - » 67% artists of color

Ongoing projects and more proposed changes are outlined in the museum's Anti-Racism Action Plan.

Detailed information from the Exhibition Assessment is available by request.

³ An estimated 85% of artists represented in U.S. Museums are white, and 87% are male. Diversity of Artists in Major U.S. Museums, a study published on the nonprofit Public Library of Science website in February 2019.