



BUTLER GALLERY

Butler Gallery

Located in the heart of Kilkenny city, and established in 1943 by a group of artists including George Pennefather, Butler Gallery is a vibrant contemporary art gallery, in the historic Evans' Home, and offers one of the finest exhibition spaces in Ireland.

Butler Gallery is committed to exhibiting the work of Irish and emerging artists, to bringing the work of major international artists to Kilkenny and consistently seeks to promote high artistic standards and the value of visual art to society.

The Building:

Evans' Home was built in 1818 at a cost of £5,000 on the former site of a military barracks. It was designed by the Kilkenny Architect William Robertson to provide a home for former servants who had no one to support them in their old age. The building remained in use as a Care Home until the 1996 under the provisions of the trust.

Evans' Home came into Council ownership in 1997 and various proposals for a new use were considered before agreement was reached in 2009 to develop it as the new Butler Gallery in a partnership with Kilkenny Local Authorities.

The works undertaken by McCullough Mulvin Architects have transformed the existing building, its gardens and boundary walls into a destination for art, archaeology, history, education and leisure and brings a very significant building in the City's history back into public use since 2020.

It is a challenge to creating a contemporary art gallery in a heritage building. The architects had to create a balance between preserving the old building and introducing new elements necessary for a museum-like climate control to keep work safe, and flow of rooms for visitors.

Original features have been kept where possible – during your trip you may find old fireplaces and hearths in keeping with the heritage of the site. In the Main Gallery, there is no evidence of the heritage of the building at all, they've created a white box. However, cleverly the original roof joists, and windows are behind the walls, so those original features are still intact.

Key Words:

Curator: A curator in a gallery or museum is a specialist responsible for caring for and developing the collection of artworks or artefacts. Curators often acquire new works for the collection and decide how artworks should be displayed.

Layout: Refers to how the artworks are placed around the room

Annotations: Notes included on your sketches – it is essential that sketches are labelled

Art Elements: Line, shape, space, texture, tone, colour & form.

Contemporary art: is art produced more recently or within our lifetime.

The Exhibition:

Date of your visit: _____

What is the title of the Exhibition? _____

Does this title give you any clues as to what the exhibition is about? _____

What kind of Artefacts / Artworks are on display? _____

How is the artwork labelled? _____

What do you think is the main theme or message communicated in the exhibition?

Look and Respond describe and discuss two artefacts on display:

Look carefully at your chosen artwork/ artefact and answer the following questions.

Questions	Artwork / Artefact 1	Artwork / Artefact 2
What is the artists name?		
What is the title of the work?		
Describe what you see		
What is the message of the artwork do you think ?		
How was this artwork made?		
Are there similarities between the two artworks you have chosen?		

<p>Are there differences between the two artworks you have chosen?</p>		
<p>Does the artwork reflect any of the art elements? (Line, form, texture, tone, shape, space, colour)</p>		
<p>Provide a sketch of the artwork or artefact</p>		

Think Pair Share : In a group – discuss your findings with your classmates.

Discuss many possible interpretations.

Listen and consider the views of others – did you interpret the artwork the same way or differently?

The Gallery Space:

What is the role of the curator:

Can you list 3 things the curator must consider when putting on an exhibition:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

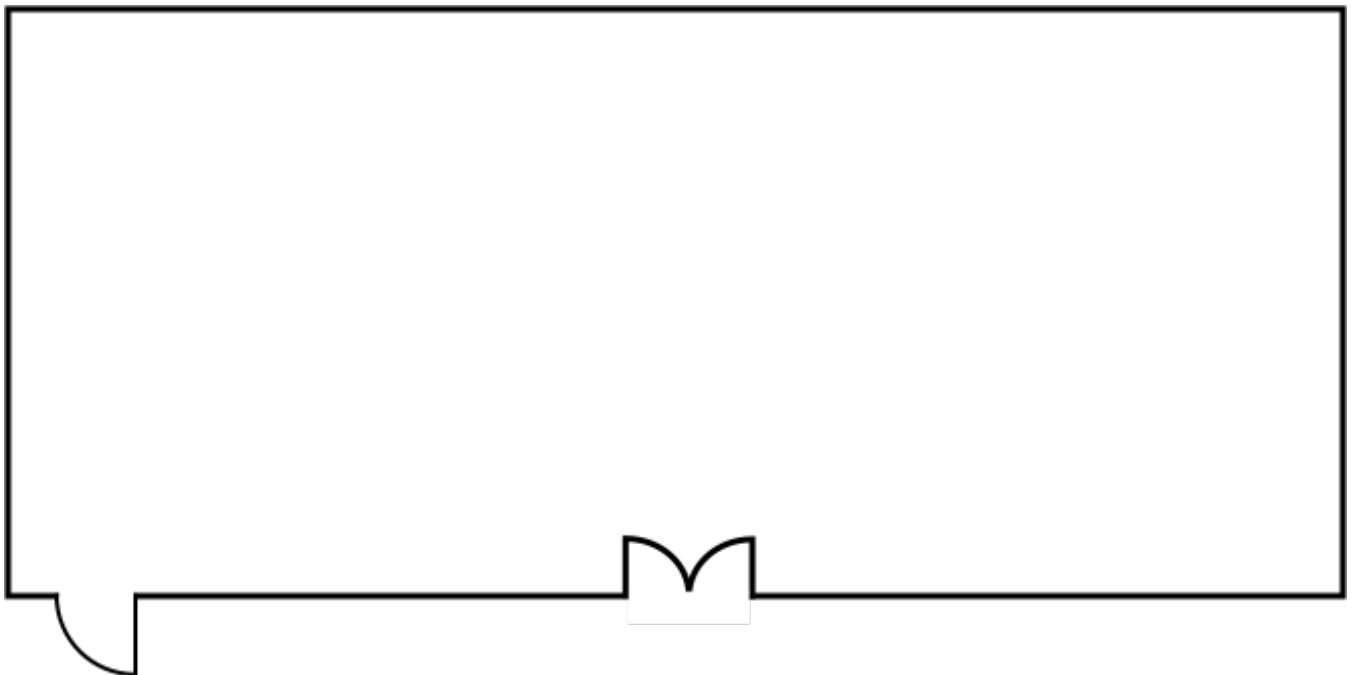
How is the artwork / artefact displayed?

(Clue: Consider if the curator has used frames – shown artwork on a plinth – how is it hung up? Are there display cases?)

Layout:

Complete a sketch of how artwork is positioned in the gallery on the floor map provided.

MAIN GALLERY FLOOR MAP:



How does the room feel to you? (busy, calm, noisy)

Lighting: Where is the light coming from? Illustrate on your diagram. Consider if light is natural or artificial.

What kind of Information is provided for visitors to this exhibition?

What measures are taken to ensure the artwork is safe?

Does the room feel contemporary or historical?

The role of Galleries / Museums in the community

What facilities are available for visitors at the Butler Gallery?

How was your visitor experience?

How do the team at the Butler Gallery programme for inclusivity?

Further Research: In what way does the gallery interact with the public?

(Clue: you might find some information at the front desk or at www.butlergallery.ie)

Activities for the classroom :

- Design a brochure for this exhibition – send it in to us at info@butleryallery.ie, we would love to see your creations.
- Design an exhibition layout of your favourite pieces of artwork from this exhibition. Consider how you would display the work in a space in your school. Illustrate your answer.
- What initiatives would you implement for young people to encourage them to visit and engage with the gallery?

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