

# Artist Loan Fees

## Fees for public sector exhibitions

- Practitioners should be adequately paid in recognition of their input into public non-selling exhibitions. This includes payment of one or more of the following, as appropriate to the circumstance:
  - artist loan fees to a practitioner for the loan of their own work
  - fees for the creation and/or installation of a visual art, craft or design work, including site specific or ephemeral work such as audio-visual and performance art, when these require the practitioner to create, install or present the work on-site. These fees should be calculated on labour costs and should be kept distinct from materials and services costs
  - fees for associated lectures, talks, curatorial and administrative work as relevant.
- Artist loan fees and fees for the creation of work should be seen as distinct from any other payments or exhibition costs and should not be ‘traded off’ against other goods or services provided by the gallery to the practitioner.
- Fees should be based on Table 4 and included when developing budgets for exhibitions.
- Funding bodies should support the payment of fees by galleries in receipt of public funding.

Artist loan fees are paid to practitioners for the loan of their work to a public gallery in a non-selling exhibition. These fees are paid in recognition of the value being provided to the public, and the potential loss of income to practitioners while their work is on loan for a short or long-term exhibition and not available for sale. The fee relates to work borrowed from the practitioner directly, and not to work borrowed from a collector.

During the 1980s the Australia Council for the Arts mandated the payment of artist fees by all public galleries and exhibitions receiving its funding. However, this requirement was discontinued in 1997 from which time the Council instead relied on industry self-regulation. At the point of publication, new artist fee requirements were being considered for introduction by the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council.

The fees in this booklet use as their starting point, the recommendation made in 2004 by the Sydney Art Scene, (a group of Sydney artists with support from artists in other states, who lobbied for an increase in loan fee rates) and a coalition of 20 artist run initiatives. They recommended that artist loan fees should be a minimum of \$2,000 for a solo show in a single venue. CPI has been added to reach the 2009 figure published here, and variations for multi venues and multiple practitioners have been extrapolated from that figure.

The schedule below is based upon calculating a one artist, single venue rate and deriving multiple venue and multiple artist rates from it. CPI has been added to the \$2,000 baseline rate proposed in 2004 to arrive at the listed figures.

These fees should be seen as a minimum standard. Higher profile or more established practitioners, as well as practitioners showing in higher profile or better resourced public galleries, should be able to negotiate higher fees.

Larger galleries (venues) with multiple exhibition spaces should ensure that each exhibition is treated separately in the calculation of artist loan fees. Therefore a gallery with three concurrent solo exhibitions should pay the appropriate single artist, single venue rate to each practitioner. When an exhibition goes on tour to multiple venues, the loan fee is usually paid by the exhibition organising body as a flat fee based on the length of time of the tour.

**Table 4**  
Artist loan fees

	Single Venue		Multi venue or extended exhibition		Multi venue or extended exhibition		Multi venue or extended exhibition	
	up to 2 Months		2 to 12 months		12–24 months		2 years +	
Number of artists	Fee per artist	Total fee	Fee per artist	Total fee	Fee per artist	Total fee	Fee per artist	Total fee
1	2300	2300	4600	4600	6250	6250	6900	6900
2	1150	2300	2300	4600	3125	6250	3450	6900
3	767	2301	1534	4602	2083	6249	2300	6900
4	575	2300	1150	4600	1563	6252	1725	6900
5	460	2300	920	4600	1250	6250	1380	6900
6	383	2298	766	4596	1042	6252	1150	6900
7	328	2296	657	4599	893	6251	986	6902
8	287	2296	575	4600	781	6248	863	6904
9	255	2295	511	4599	694	6246	767	6903
10	230	2300	460	4600	625	6250	690	6900
10+ min fee	230	–	460	–	625	–	690	–