

## ***Slate Hanging Guide***

The hanging restrictions for Slate are a little unusual, so here is a guide to what is and is not permitted – and some techniques for using the tools available.

### ***Dos and Don'ts***

Slate is comprised of 80cm wide hardboard boards. Your work must be attached to them. Some pointers to begin with:

- Each board will be moved independently during the hang, so **your work must be attached to one or another board**, you can't attach the same piece of work to two boards. This means you may find it hard to line up items centrally across the two smaller windows, so you should think carefully about the layout.
- Each item **must be mounted in (at least) two places**, so it doesn't swing as the board is moved into place, or move if the board is knocked once in situ. So you can't just attach the middle of each piece.
- Your **work can only be hung / attached using panel pins, map pins, or staples**. Panel pins and clear map pins are provided – if you want to use staples you must bring a staple gun and staples yourself.
- You **must not use screws** - they make holes which are too big – so mirrorplate fixings can't be used.
- You **should not use double-sided masking tape** / artist's tape to attach work to the boards – they do not hold the work firmly enough or for long enough, and invariably someone has to go back in and fix up the exhibition at a later date.
- Sticky-back **Velcro is completely out of the question** as it damages the boards!

Remember that your work has to stay attached to the boards for six weeks, and it will experience temperature changes from night time to direct sun.

### ***Techniques***

If all the above has given you a headache, don't worry! Here are some techniques which you might find useful to hang your work at Slate (and we are always open to ideas):

- If you **need to hang across several boards** this can be done by using a sheet. Attach your work to the sheet ahead of the hang. Allow plenty of space at the top, as the sheet will be hung over the top of the boards, and pinned in place at the back. Also, the top of the boards will be at least half a metre above eye level once in place.
- **Items can be suspended by fishing wire**. Panel pins are placed on the top of the board and below where the item will go, and then wire hung straight or looped down and back up. This can also be used as a method of holding thin, flat items where a pin would cause damage. It requires trial and error so do allow plenty of time.

- **Canvasses can be suspended on map pins** – the wooden frame can be hung over map pin heads, but care must be taken as the boards are moved so that the canvas does not get jolted and fall off. For that reason, it is better not to have more than one canvas per board.
- **Items mounted on card can be secured by map pins.** The pins go around the edges and are hammered in so that the heads restrain the artwork. It is best to use two pins top and bottom and one at each side, or the work can bow and escape.
- **Staples** can be punched through the work directly, or a strip of material can be attached to the rear of each piece. The strip can then be stapled to a board.
- **Foamboard mounted items should be hung using foamboard hangers**, and a panel pin in the middle of each hanger. Two hangers must be used for each piece, so it can't swing. Alternatively, panel pins can be directly nailed through less valuable items mounted on foamboard, for example artist information sheets.
- While masking tape must not be used as the sole method of securing work to boards, it can be useful in certain circumstances. For example, **masking tape can be used to align an item** where the weight is taken by another method.

## ***Finally...***

Please remember that:

- The boards are hard – it takes time to hammer the nails in, especially with accuracy and precision. Allow a lot longer than you expect. The full three hours will normally be needed and it is not unknown for items to have to be tacked in place and the Slate co-ordinators return to secure them the following day. For this reason it is important that you have planned the hang and know what goes where and how it will be hung **BEFORE** you turn up as there is no time to waste!
- When items fall down, the Slate co-ordinators have to give up part of their weekend to make it good. So please do your very best to secure your work in the initial hang.

If you have any questions, please email [flash@slate-arts.com](mailto:flash@slate-arts.com) .

Your comments on this document and the hanging process would also be very welcome.