

## **WEEK 7 LESSON**

### **EXHIBITION AND DISPLAY TECHNIQUES**

**This refers to the display of art works for the public to see.** During exhibition, works of art are well prepared and arranged to be attractive and accessible. Exhibition is a good way of making known the efforts of some industrious and creative artists. Without exhibition, the creative works of art of some great artists may never be known.

Before art works are presented in public, there are certain considerations to be made. The works of art should be well prepared and presented. This will ensure a successful exhibition. Below are some of the ways in which works of art can be prepared for an exhibition.

#### **Methods of preparing art works for display**

1. **Fixing:** This is the application of fixatives on art works. Fixatives are used to transparently coat art works. This is necessary because fixatives help in preservation of art works. This method is usually necessary and suitable for art works done with pencil or poster colour.
2. **Labelling:** This is done by writing the following:
  - (a) Title of the art work.
  - (b) Name of artist(s) that did the work
  - (c) Brief acknowledgement (If so required)
  - (d) Year of production
  - (e) Medium of production
  - (f) Class (for works produced by students)
3. **Framing:** This implies placing an art work within a frame. There are various types of frames. There are wooden frames, metal frames, glass frames and so on. Students can improvise frames by placing pieces of straight wood or metallic pipes around they work and joining the edges with suitable materials.

**Mounting:** This is the display of art works by hanging. Works of art are either hung on a wall, on a stand or pedestal. The type of art work involved determines the method of mounting to be used.

### **Display techniques**

There are various techniques applied in the display of art work. The artist chooses his own technique depending on the following:

1. The effect he hopes to achieve
2. The purpose of the exhibition
3. Easy access
4. To increase attraction and interest
5. To separate works that belong to a particular grouping, topic or idea

### **Types of display techniques**

#### **Categorizing**

There are various kinds of categorizations in various kinds of exhibition based on what the artist wants to achieve. Some of them are given below:

##### **1. Self-revealing exhibition**

This exhibition is focused on allowing the work of art to speak for itself. The art works are arranged in such a manner that those who attend the exhibition can easily see them and admire them for what they are. The works of art earn their own attraction.

##### **2. Educative exhibition**

This is an exhibition organized with the intent of passing or communicating information to the public. It is usually based on a main idea or theme. In this case there are certain information that the art exhibitor expects the public to know about after going through the art work. For this purpose, written comments or additional notes are usually added to the works of art. People

are supposed to leave such as exhibition having gotten the intended information, if not, the educative exhibition is fruitless.

### **3. Interactive exhibition**

This is an exhibition organized to create interaction among those who attended. The exhibited works of art forms a basis of interactions. The people share their feelings and experiences with one another. With this, knowledge is shared or exchanged. It is usually a knowledge sharing and life-enriching experience. The various information shared are assessed by selected person who evaluate the responses of those who attended and gives approval and rewards for outstanding presentations.

### **4. Inspirational exhibition**

This is an exhibition that is geared towards inspiring people with different kinds of emotions. An exhibition can be presented to expose the sufferings of the riverine dwellers of oil producing areas of Nigeria. An exhibition can be presented also to depict the horrors of war or the pains of sickness. This can be done to encourage people to have sympathy or take care of the needy.

### **5. Environmental exhibition**

This is an exhibition made to give the effects of a new environment. Displays can be made to create a riverine environment, or a developed city or a ghetto etc.

## **Designing of Space**

Consideration of space is very important. It is always necessary to prepare the space necessary for an exhibition. The sizes of the works need to be considered while arranging the space meant for them. There should also be enough light in the place so that the art works can be easily seen. Entrance and exit should also be put into consideration as well as where people would stay to view the works. Avoid an arrangement that would lead to overcrowding or undue clustering of people.

## **Mounting Boards**

This has to do with display using properly mounted boards. The boards should not be raised too high that it will be difficult to see the art works or too low that those who attended have to bend too low to observe them. The sizes of the art works and the importance attached to them have to be put into consideration.