

What is the difference between a site-specific exhibition and a wall mounted exhibition?

In this essay I plan on explaining the difference between a site-specific exhibition and a traditional wall mounted exhibition, I will do this by comparing different venues and people's opinions combined with my own.

### Site-Specific Exhibition

“As a site-specific work of art is designed for a specific location, if removed from that location it loses all or a substantial part of its meaning. The term site-specific is often used in relation to installation art, as in site-specific installation; and land art is site-specific almost by definition.” Tate museum (2020) Tate Museum [online] available at [Site-specific | Tate](#) date accessed [17<sup>th</sup> of October 2024].

This is a brief rundown on basically what it is, for example this exhibited piece shown below. Can only work in Paris as that sized pyramid only exists there and furthermore the clever optical illusion can only be achieved from that vantage point.



if you were to move the artwork for example to the pyramid in Egypt it would not work as the images and ratio in sizing has been specifically scaled to the pyramid in Paris, also the artwork would not be able to be seen in its true glory as the angle works only for those buildings' height.



Another famous site specific in more recent times is the Port Talbot mural by Banks. As this mural was created in response to the closing of the steel works, and from which sparked a raise in concern to the closing of the steel works. "Fits perfectly with Port Talbot...steel works town is frequently covered in ash." CNN Style (2018) Gareth Thomas [online] available at [Banksy confirms he's behind new mural in Port Talbot, Wales | CNN](#) date accessed [17<sup>th</sup> of October 2024] but going back to the topic in hand although in recent times the mural has been sold and moved etc. But bearing the that in mind it has lost its site-specific quality as it was based in Port Talbot. Although it could be argued that I'm wrong as this mural can be relocated to anywhere with pollution or ash for example a war zone as the same sort of message will come across, it is still as child playing in ash thinking it is snow.

### Wall Mounted Exhibition

Moving on to the wall mounted variant, the explanation for the work is far more open and debateable. As there does not have to be a set theme for the location or in general, as it in my opinion is more based around the environment and studio space to complement the work.



As seen in the image above you could have a series of corresponding artworks on a standard grey or white etc. Wall. As they work together as the frames are similar same for the artworks within. But realistically they could be hung anywhere as they are in all due respect generic work that works in most environments whether it's a museum or your bedroom. As all they require is a wall on bear minim with a sturdy nail in it.



On the other hand the Gabriele Steighorst work is mainly wax sculptures, and while they are not categorised as site specific as they work anywhere, they could be argued that they are. Because, wax's weakness is heat so you could display them in a scorching hot day in the middle of town as they would melt. So, they must be kept

in the correct conditions to prevent melting or any kind of damage. Keep all that in mind it could now be said that her sculptures are in fact site specific exhibited pieces.

In conclusion and overall, all opinion, the difference in my personal opinion is debatable as one hand says yes, a site specific is special to that location and as a rule cannot be moved. But it can also be argued it can be moved, as I mentioned in regard to Banksy's Port Talbot mural. On the other hand, non-site-specific work is to me down to whether it can be moved and still work or has to stay in certain locations as spoken about with Gabriele Steighorst. So i believe it is subjective to the environment no the location

## Bibliography

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[Banksy confirms he's behind new mural in Port Talbot, Wales | CNN](#)

Thomas, Gareth, CNN Style. 2018. Accessed 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2024

[Site-specific | Tate](#)