



## Guidelines for Members and Groups 2025

Mercury Bay Art Escape began in 2006 and became a registered Charitable Trust in 2010. It has become a widely recognized and respected brand within art trails and community visual art organisations in New Zealand.

**Art Escape operates on a collaborative basis, member's assistance is required and expected. The Trust and Steering Group welcome you time and expertise on activities and events, particularly leading up to Open Studios.**

**As a member you agree to the following guidelines:**

- Be physically present in your studio with your exhibition throughout the Open Studio weekends, both weekends 10am - 4pm daily. Visitors expect to be able to meet the artists as part of their Art Escape experience. It is understood that there can be personal events that happen suddenly and change a member's situation, and in such circumstances, it would be helpful if the artist or friend can represent them during Open Studios. If this happens email [admin@mercurybayartescape.com](mailto:admin@mercurybayartescape.com) immediately. Members will not be accepted if they know in advance that they will be away during the weekends of Open Studios.
- Respect your obligations and value your relationship with any gallery representing you when you are pricing and selecting your works to display at your studio. It is important that the gallery can also display your works during Open Studio weekends.
- Only display and sell items that you have created yourself or are from original handmade designs that you have produced ie 60% original artworks 40% prints, cards and prints. Imported mass produced goods or crafts are not acceptable.
- It is not acceptable to sell or exhibit work by an artist who is not a paid member of MBAE. If these rules are broken the member will be asked to remove the items from their display or risk immediate cancellation of their membership without a refund.
- The studio space should be in an accessible location suitable for visitors with some parking available.
- If you do not have a suitable studio space that is easily accessible with some parking, please consider a shared studio space with another MBAE member in your area or contact your area rep to be referred to other member artists who may be able to share.
- **Hubs**  
A Hub arrangement is an option for up to 5 member artists who come together for the purpose of Open Studios who don't normally meet.
- **Groups**
  - Must be a named recognised group that meet regularly.
  - Group must be a minimum of 6, Max of 10 people.
  - Each member must meet MBAE selection and location criteria.

ie. Artists must live, have property, or have a genuine connection to the Mercury Bay geographical area of Art Escape. Area extends from Whangapoua in the north to Pauanui/Hikuai in the south.

Each group member must demonstrate a high level of skill, originality of design and quality in the execution of their work, in any media and be approved by Selection Panel.

- o Fees are \$300 group + \$100 each group member. (subject to postponed rebate)
  - o Professionally prepare and hang or display a maximum of 8 original handmade works per group member which must be recently completed and for sale.
  - o Ideally a minimum of 2 group members must be present at exhibition.
  - o The group will receive 1 Guide listing, 1 web page (includes individual names), max 10 images) 1 Opening night ticket, 1 work in Showcase exhibition, 1 Sign/flag.
  - o One member of the group to be nominated as liaison person to communicate with Trust/Steering Group. Members of a group should direct their art escape related communications through this liaison person and not directly to Art Escape.
  - o All usual Guidelines apply.
- During Open Studios we encourage you to present elements of your studio practice, this could be works in progress, your tools, raw materials or an interactive art activity etc. This is often a highlight of a studio visit as visitors get a better understanding of your art process and enjoy seeing how you create your work.
  - Display promotional MBAE banner flag at the entrance of your studio during open hours of Open Studios. The use of the flag and promotional materials is encouraged whenever a member chooses to open their studio during the year.
  - Images provided for membership purposes may be used for publicity.
  - Provide regular social media content to promote your work and studio. You must contribute suitable photos and videos to MBAE throughout the year to keep this promotional portal active and interesting.
  - Promote Art Escape activities on your social media pages
  - Share social media generic posts to promote Art Escape.
  - Insurance is your responsibility at all times
  - Distribute Guides, posters and other information as requested.
  - Members are not permitted to change or uplift any artworks from the **Showcase Exhibition** in March /April. When exhibiting with Art Escape please communicate any changes you wish to make by contacting [admin@mercurybayartescape.com](mailto:admin@mercurybayartescape.com)
  - In the event of a potential postponement or cancellation of Open Studio events due to circumstances beyond our control, members will be consulted and a refund considered subject to expenditure on the event and dates of postponement or cancellation.

## To renew your membership.

1. From the *Members Hub*.
2. Use the password (members2023), click on **Renew Membership - Members and Groups 2025**.  
**Complete the online form and upload images by 1 October.**

### Fees

Membership fees are to be paid by **1 October 2024** to MBAE Bank account 02-0496-0056621-00 ie \$300 for 2024.

If you wish to pay in 2 installments please email our Treasurer [accounts@mercurybayartescape.com](mailto:accounts@mercurybayartescape.com) to arrange.

**This date of 1 October is critical so we can start planning the Guide layout and prepare data for the new website.**

Membership guidelines/Registration for membership are reviewed and determined annually.

The Trust and Steering Group encourage open discussion so if you have any ideas, concerns, complaints or queries please contact a member to discuss.

For any renewal inquiries please contact <mailto:artists@mercurybayartescape.com>