

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



UCF School of Visual Art and Design

Reimagined Shelving Design Adds Space and Encourages Interaction

CHALLENGE

"The Vault" is a tiny room inside the art gallery at The University of Central Florida in Orlando. For years, the gallery's many paintings, drawings, sculptures and disparate items were stored on stationary shelving. Pieces were arranged less by thematic similarities or shared artistic attributes than they were by available space. Hundred-pound sculptures could be found stored next to 10-inch square items, while elaborate African masks remained in boxes and paintings were leaned up against metal shelving.

"We didn't have a lot of room or flexibility, as the shelving was in short supply and fixed," said Shannon Lindsey, a university lecturer and the gallery's director. "We would store the artworks wherever we could, based on size."

SOLUTION

Including nooks and crannies, the Vault measures just over 600 square feet. The project's eventual success required two critical first steps; namely, taking a complete inventory of the pieces in the collection and consulting with the staff on how the space would be used. With knowledge the area would be used not only for storage but as a space for students to experience the pieces, creative space planning required a mixture of the shelving and art racks.

A combination of Spacesaver art racks, mechanical-assist mobile shelving, 4-post shelving and cantilever shelving helped organize the space, including providing a wall display for the masks. Additionally, a local metal fabricator helped construct metal carts for flat files. Textile rods and wide-span (RaptorRAC) shelving were also introduced.

ACHIEVEMENT

"We have a variety of things in our collection that required various modes of storage," said Lindsey. "These include sculptures (ranging anywhere from a few inches tall to six or seven feet tall), large and small paintings, unframed drawings and photos that are in flat file drawers, and a wonderful collection of masks. Thanks to the new installation, we're not only able to navigate the space more easily and store things in a more organized fashion, but I can bring down students and faculty and let them experience the artwork for themselves. That's a wonderful change."



"Patterson Pope...has a really thorough understanding of the functionality of storage. They helped us visualize our space in ways we hadn't considered."

Shannon Lindsey
Director
UCF Art Gallery

