







Universal Civils and Build combined and refurbished two existing art studios at Ruthin Arts & Crafts Centre to create a contemporary new art gallery space.

The gallery will be used to showcase the work of local and national artists and museum art and artifacts.

The mechanical and electrical engineering design was developed to meet the environmental conditions required by National Museum Wales and the Government Indemnity Scheme (GIS) to allow items to be borrowed from other organisations who require these standards to be met. The design included a high efficiency air handling unit which controls temperature and humidity, linked to a cloud-based platform to allow remote monitoring and sharing of information.

The gallery track lighting allows the light positions to be moved to suit each exhibition and beam angles and lighting levels to be adjusted from ground level via app based software to ensure required lux levels are met. In addition to this, electric blinds installed to the skylights allow daylight into the spaces to be controlled.

A dedicated service void was created to run the ventilation ductwork, screened from the gallery behind removable panels. A former entrance lobby was converted to house the air handling unit and was screened externally behind solid oak doors, matching the oak panelling used throughout the wider building and produced by a local architectural and bespoke joiner.

High security measures were installed to the building, including security shutters to the windows, doors and rooflights, and upgraded CCTV and intruder detection systems. The shutters were enclosed behind bulkheads to hide them from view when not in use.

The floors were levelled off and covered in a concrete-effect vinyl flooring. The building envelope was insulated before being lined throughout in plasterboard and blockboard – providing a robust medium for fixing artwork to, and the walls, ceilings and doors were painted white, creating a sleek and contemporary blank canvas for the exhibitions to be displayed against.

Joe Jubb, Administration Officer for DLL commented that "Everyone who has walked into the new space has been blown away with the transformation and how good it looks".







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