

Art Gallery Acquisitions and De-accessioning

August 2018

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Part A Preliminary

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the policy is to provide a framework for the acquisition and de-accession of Works of Art in the Collection.

2 Scope

- 3.1 The policy applies to all acquisitions and de-accessioning of Works of Art into and out of the Gallery Collection.
- 3.2 The policy does not apply to Public Art.

3 Principles

- 4.1 City of Newcastle (**CN**) commits itself to the following principles:
 - 4.1.1 Accountability and transparency - The policy provides a framework for the transparent and relevant acquisition and de-accessioning of Works of Art to and from the Gallery Collection.
 - 4.1.2 Reflecting the artistic, cultural and social development of the City of Newcastle.
 - 4.1.3 Providing the community with opportunities to engage with Works of Art in a highly accessible public space.
 - 4.1.4 Recognising artists from Newcastle and the Hunter Region.
 - 4.1.5 Enhancing the community's awareness, understanding and appreciation of art.

Part B Areas of collecting

4 Primary areas of collecting

4.1 The Gallery aims to collect:

4.1.1 Australian art of all regions with emphasis on:

4.1.1.1 Works of Art pertaining to Newcastle and the Hunter Region.

4.1.1.2 Works of Art by outstanding artists associated with Newcastle and the Hunter Region.

4.1.1.3 Representation of the full range of styles and movements in all major visual arts media.

4.1.1.4 Contemporary art to ensure low cost and high value masterpieces for the future.

4.1.2 Australian ceramics (20th Century - present day) to fully represent the development of this art medium.

4.1.3 Japanese ceramics (20th Century - present day) to fully represent the development of this art medium.

4.1.4 International Works of Art where they have relevance to, and inform, the existing Works of Art in the Gallery's Collection

Part C Acquisitions

5 Criteria for acquisition

- 5.1 The Gallery will only acquire a Work of Art for the Collection if the Work of Art is:
 - 5.1.1 relevant to, and inform, the Collection including one of the Primary areas of collecting.
 - 5.1.2 unencumbered to allow unconditional right to retain custody and control in perpetuity.
 - 5.1.3 unencumbered to allow the legal and equitable title to transfer to CN.
 - 5.1.4 able to be cared for and stored appropriately by the Gallery.
 - 5.1.5 of Gallery / Museum quality and in a good state of preservation.
 - 5.1.6 not a duplicate of a Work of Art already in the Collection.
 - 5.1.7 being acquired primarily for public display.

6 Recommendation and approval of acquisitions

- 6.1 If the Art Gallery Director considers that a Work of Art is appropriate for acquisition by purchase, donation or bequest, the Art Gallery Director will report to the Committee recommending that the Work of Art be considered.
- 6.2 The Committee will:
 - 6.2.1 review the report of the Art Gallery Director against the primary areas of collecting provided in clause 4 and criteria for acquisition provided in clause 5.
 - 6.2.2 make a recommendation on the acquisition of the Work of Art.
- 6.3 If the Committee recommends the acquisition of a Work of Art, the Art Gallery Director may acquire the Work of Art in accordance with CN's Acquisitions and De-accessioning Procedure and in accordance with staff financial authorisations. The purchase of Works of Art with CN funding to the value of \$1 million or more will be approved by the resolution of the Council. Approval for budget increases to the acquisitions budget will be sought through the adopted quarterly review process and reported to Council.
- 6.4 If the Committee does not recommend the acquisition of the Work of Art, CN must not acquire the Work of Art.

Part D De-accessioning

7 Criteria for de-accessioning

- 7.1 The Gallery may only de-accession Works of Art if it is established that the Work of Art:
 - 7.1.1 is inconsistent with this policy or was erroneously included in the Collection.
 - 7.1.2 has no clear legal and equitable title.
 - 7.1.3 has been lost or stolen.
 - 7.1.4 has its authenticity proven to be in question.
 - 7.1.5 is damaged or suffered serious deterioration in condition.
 - 7.1.6 is an obvious duplication or repetition of the Work of Art already in the Collection.

8 Recommendation and approval for de-accessioning

- 8.1 If the Art Gallery Director considered that a Work of Art is no longer appropriate to the Collection, the Art Gallery Director will report to the Committee recommending that the Work of Art be de-accessioned.
- 8.2 The Committee will:
 - 8.2.1 review the report of the Art Gallery Director against the Primary areas of collecting provided in clause 4 and criteria for acquisition provided in clause 5.
 - 8.2.2 make a recommendation on the de-accessioning of the Work of Art.
- 8.3 If the Committee recommends the de-accessioning of a Work of Art, CN may de-accession the Work of Art.
- 8.4 If the Committee does not recommend that the Work of Art be de-accessioned, CN must not de-accession the Work of Art.

Annexure A - Definitions

Unless the context determines otherwise:

Charter means the governing guidelines for the **Committee**.

City of Newcastle (CN) means Newcastle City Council.

Collection means all **Works of Art** contained in the Art Gallery or to be acquired for the Art Gallery's Collection.

Committee means the Acquisitions and De-accessioning Committee.

Council means elected Council.

Donation means either a gift of a **Work of Art** directly to the Art Gallery or as a Cultural Gift Program Donation (CGP) through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program.

Gallery means the Newcastle Art Gallery.

Public Art means **Works of Art** to be staged in a public domain.

Work/s of Art means artwork, art piece, art object or an aesthetic item or artistic creation.

Unless stated otherwise, a reference to a clause is a reference to a clause of the policy.

Annexure B - Policy Authorisations

| Function | Position Number / Title |
|--|-------------------------|
| Make recommendations for acquisition and de-accessioning | Art Gallery Director |
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Document Control

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|--|---|
| Policy title | Art Gallery Acquisitions and De-accessioning |
| Policy owner | Art Gallery Director |
| Policy expert/writer | Curator Newcastle Art Gallery |
| Associated Procedure Title (if applicable) | Acquisitions and De-accessioning Procedure |
| Procedure owner (if applicable) | Art Gallery Director |
| Prepared by | Curator Newcastle Art Gallery |
| Approved by | Council |
| Date approved | 28/08/2018 |
| Policy approval form reference | ECM# 5676623 |
| Commencement Date | 28/08/2018 |
| Next revision date (date policy will be revised) | 28/08/2021 |
| Termination date | 28/08/2022 |
| Version | Version number 3 |
| Category | Council |
| Keywords | Acquisitions, art, art gallery, de-accessioning, Works of Art |
| Details of previous versions | Version 1 - ECM# 5663713 Version 2 - ECM# 3065452 |
| Legislative amendments | Nil |
| Relevant strategic direction | Vibrant and Activated Public Places |
| Relevant strategy | Nil |
| Relevant legislation/codes (reference specific sections) | Nil |

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|--|---|
| Other related policies/ documents/ strategies | Code of Conduct |
| Related forms | Transfer of title and ownership Certificate of Donation - Cultural Gifts Program |
| Required on website | Yes |
| Authorisations | Functions authorised under this Policy at Annexure B |