

## CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION

| Policy Type | Approved | Amended | Custodian                                |
|-------------|----------|---------|--|
| Strategic   |          |         | Curator City of Fremantle Art Collection |

### Objective

To define the principle objectives and purpose of the City of Fremantle Art Collection and to detail procedures and standards by which the collection is managed.

### Higher Order Plan

Fremantle City Plan

- City of Fremantle Cultural Plan
  - 6.2 Conserving and promoting our cultural Heritage

### Legislative Framework

### Decision Maker

CEO

### Delegation of Decision-Making

Delegation 3.7

Delegated by Council to: CEO

Guidelines: Authority to approve acquisition recommendations by the Curator. Approval is to be subject to provision of evaluation documentation as against the policy criteria.

Delegated by CEO to: Director

## POLICY

### CITY OF FREMANTLE ART COLLECTION

### COLLECTIONS POLICY

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The City of Fremantle Art Collection was established in 1958. The collection has holdings of paintings, prints, drawings, ceramics and sculpture tracking the development of artists and visual arts practice in Fremantle over the last thirty years. In particular, the collection is a record of the evolution of the Fremantle Arts Centre as a national centre for exhibition of innovative visual arts practice.

The collection has works of historical and contemporary significance including substantial holdings of paintings by Kathleen O' Connor and sculpture by Akio Makigawa in addition to early works by leading Fremantle artists. The collection has a holding of national significance of Western Australian and Australian prints, including award winning works from the Shell Fremantle Print Award.

Today, the collection maintains a strong relevance to Fremantle artists and community, in the acquisition of works created by artists who live or work in Fremantle, or art which reflects or is inspired by activities in Fremantle. The collection also acquires works which will build upon the strengths in its existing holdings of contemporary Australian prints and Western Australian ceramics.

## **2. OBJECTIVE**

- 2.1 To ensure sound management of the City of Fremantle Art Collection and adherence to the City's Art Collection purpose and objectives.

### **Note:**

This Collections Policy complies with the terms and principles of the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1986*, and the *acquisition guidelines and statement on ethics by Museums Australia* and heeds the regulations and procedures of the Commonwealth Government's Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme. (Copies of these documents are available from the Curator.)

## **3. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- 3.1 The City of Fremantle maintains and enhances a collection of works of art which are an artistic statement about Fremantle. The collection contributes to the representation of the visual arts culture in City of Fremantle encompassing: history, people, place, identity and the cultural diversity of the Fremantle community.
- 3.2 The City of Fremantle collects, promotes, preserves, researches and interprets its collection through exhibition and documentation.
- 3.3 The City of Fremantle develops its collection holdings in accordance with current museum practice and employs significance assessment criteria developed by the Heritage Collections Council, including: historic significance, aesthetic significance, social or spiritual significance. (Copy of Heritage Collections Council "Significance: a guide to assessing the significance of cultural heritage objects and collections" is available from the Curator.)

- 3.4 The collection is vested in the City of Fremantle. Appropriate stewardship of this valuable asset seeks to provide maximum access and benefits for the community.

#### **4. SCOPE**

- 4.1 The policy applies to all movable art works accessioned into the City of Fremantle Art Collection, which does not include objects listed in the Register of Public Art Works or holdings of the Local History or Sister City/Municipal Gifts to the City.

#### **5. MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 The City of Fremantle Art Collection is managed by professionally trained staff who are charged with the role of maintaining high standards of management of the collection and making recommendations on acquisitions and de-accessioning of works from the collection.
- 5.2 The City of Fremantle aims to resource the collection appropriately, including budget allocation for acquisition and development of the collection's holdings.
- 5.3 The City of Fremantle ensures the conservation of the collection's holdings and aims for industry standards of environmental control and monitored secure collection store and exhibition spaces.
- 5.4 The City of Fremantle ensures that the collection is subject to regular valuation and appropriate insurance.
- 5.5 The City of Fremantle maintains a complete catalogue including photographic, location, registration records and detailed provenance.

#### **6. ACCESS**

- 6.1 The City of Fremantle Art Collection currently has no dedicated exhibition venue. The City of Fremantle aspires to develop a permanent purpose-built exhibition and storage facility for the collection. In the meantime, the collection is required to be exposed to as wide an audience as possible, and this may encompass the use of temporary displays in appropriate places in public ownership, for example, Town Hall Centre public spaces and offices of senior staff, Fremantle Arts Centre, Moores Building Contemporary Art Gallery, municipal public service centres and loans to secure Fremantle based government authorities.

- 6.2 The City of Fremantle, from time to time, presents interpreted exhibitions from the collection and public programs to enhance the appreciation of the collection.
- 6.3 Interpretive information about the collection will be presented in a variety of publication and presentation forms and be accessible to various audiences.
- 6.4 The City of Fremantle researches and evaluates its collections and related material so that interpretation and exhibitions are carried out with integrity and resources are accessible to others for purposes of research.
- 6.5 The City of Fremantle promotes the collection and its access program through a variety of means including the development of online access.
- 6.6 Where appropriate, works from the City of Fremantle Art Collection are considered for travelling exhibitions subject to appropriate loan agreements being negotiated. (See Section 8, "Loans")

## **7. ACQUISITIONS**

The City of Fremantle Art Collection:

- 7.1 Acquires works of Art which build upon strengths of existing holdings of the collection; Print, Drawing, and Artist Books particularly with print elements, Painting and Ceramics.
- 7.2 Acquires original, excellent and significant works by Fremantle artists living and/or working in the Fremantle region and who are not currently represented in the collection.
- 7.3 Acquires works of art which relate to the experience of people living and/or working in Fremantle region.
- 7.4 Acquires those works of art which are of regional and aesthetic significance to the existing holdings and relevant to current acquisition priorities.
- 7.5 Acquires works by way of purchase (from artists' studios, exhibitions and auction), bequest or gift.
- 7.6 Accepts donated works that are the sole property of the donor and which accord with the acquisition policy for the collection. No conditions may be placed on donations.
- 7.7 Acquires art works which do not duplicate existing holdings.

## **Acquisition Process**

- 7.8 The Curator completes a 'Recommendation to Acquire' form for each acquisition. Depending on the value of the item to be acquired, the Curator then seeks independent assessment from one or two professionals with a thorough knowledge of collections management, the City of Fremantle Art Collection and its policy. This appraisal together with the recommendation from the Curator is then forwarded for final approval to the Chief Executive Officer.
- 7.9 Appraisal of potential acquisitions are not undertaken at the collection store. Only approved acquisitions enter the collection store.
- 7.10 All acquisitions are numbered, labelled and entered into the collection catalogue.
- 7.11 Acquisitions must be in a good state of preservation or manufacture. Work requiring extensive conservation and storage or exhibition conditions which cannot be realistically provided by collection resources, unless the works, following significance assessment be essential for the collections, should not be acquired.
- 7.12 Acquisitions of artists' archival material which relates directly to existing holdings of the collection and benefit the interpretation of holdings should be considered, for example, preparatory drawings and sketch books, copies of correspondence, media copy, catalogues or diaries.
- 7.13 The City is not bound to acquire any work.

## **8. LOANS**

- 8.1 The City of Fremantle does not accept permanent or indefinite loans. The collection may accept loans from time to time for exhibition purposes only.
- 8.2 All inward loans will be for a fixed time and will be documented on a loans register.
- 8.3 All outward loans are required to be made under signed agreement with the City of Fremantle.
- 8.4 All outward loans are to be insured by the recipient organisation for the duration of the hire period.
- 8.5 All loans to the collection are properly cared for in keeping with the standards outlined in this policy.

## **9. DE-ACCESSIONING AND DISPOSAL**

- 9.1 Works from the collection may be considered for removal from the collection if they are in poor condition, damaged or deteriorated beyond reasonable repair or conservation; duplicate or do not meet with the requirements of the collections policy statement. This process is known as de-accession.
- 9.2 The Curator may, from time to time, recommend works for de-accessioning to Council.
- 9.3 Where a work has been nominated for de-accession it will be fully documented before disposal. Undamaged works to be de-accessioned will either be offered to the artist, offered to a more suitable non-profit organisation, put up for public auction, or otherwise disposed of subject to full consultation with Council.
- 9.4 Where works are recommended for de-accession because of irreparable damage, a similar work by the artist may be acquired at the discretion of the Curator, if such a work is still available and affordable.
- 9.5 De-accessioned work may only be acquired by Councillors or City of Fremantle staff through the approved public processes outlined in 9.3.
- 9.6 In general, works donated by individuals may only be disposed of in exceptional circumstances and must have the specific approval of council. In this case donated items should be first offered to the donor or donor's family, or be offered to other collections or institutions. At last resort art works are offered for sale and funds employed to purchase future acquisitions.

## **10. RESPONSIBILITY**

- 10.1 Responsibility for implementation of this policy lies with the Curator in cooperation with other relevant staff and the Chief Executive Officer.

## **11. REVIEW**

- 11.1 This policy will be reviewed every three years from the time of adoption.