

City of Fremantle Art Collection

Policy scope

The City of Fremantle's Art Collection sustains and grows arts and culture and preserves and promotes the importance of our social capital and history.

This policy defines the principle objectives and purpose of the City of Fremantle Art Collection and details standards by which the collection is managed.

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.

The City of Fremantle Art Collection 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 Cultural Gifts Program.

Policy statement

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 six decades.

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 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 Fremantle Print Award.

The Collection is also a record of the evolution of Fremantle Arts Centre as a national centre for exhibition of innovative visual arts practice.

Today, the collection maintains a strong relevance to Fremantle artists and community, in the acquisition of works created by artists who have a long-term connection to Fremantle, or art which is about Fremantle. The collection also acquires works which will build upon the strengths in its existing holdings of contemporary Australian prints and Western Australian ceramics.

1. Statement of purpose

- 1.1 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 the City of Fremantle encompassing history, people, place, identity and the cultural diversity of the Fremantle community.
- 1.2 The City of Fremantle collects, promotes, preserves, researches and interprets its collection through exhibition and documentation.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The collection is vested in the City of Fremantle. Appropriate stewardship of this asset seeks to provide maximum access and benefits for the community.

2. Management

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The City of Fremantle aims to resource the collection appropriately, including budget allocation for acquisition and development of the collection's holdings.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The City of Fremantle ensures that the collection is subject to regular valuation and appropriate insurance.
- 2.5 The City of Fremantle maintains a complete catalogue including photographic, location, registration records and detailed provenance.

3. Access

- 3.1 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, Walyalup Civic Centre public spaces and offices of senior staff, Fremantle Arts Centre City of

Fremantle Art Collection Gallery, and loans to secure Fremantle based government authorities.

- 3.2 The City of Fremantle, from time to time, presents interpreted exhibitions from the collection and public programs to enhance the appreciation of the collection.
- 3.3 Interpretive information about the collection will be presented in a variety of publication and presentation forms and be accessible to various audiences.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 The City of Fremantle promotes the collection and its access program through a variety of means including the development of online access.
- 3.6 Where appropriate, works from the City of Fremantle Art Collection are considered for travelling exhibitions subject to appropriate loan agreements being negotiated. (See section 'Loans')

4. Acquisitions

The City of Fremantle Art Collection:

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 Acquires works of art which relate to the experience of people living and/or working in the Fremantle region.
- 4.4 Acquires those works of art which are of regional and aesthetic significance to the existing holdings and relevant to current acquisition priorities.
- 4.5 Acquires works by way of purchase (from artists' studios, exhibitions and auction), bequest, donation and gift.
- 4.6 Accepts donated works that are the sole property of the donor and which accord with the acquisition criteria for the collection. No conditions may be placed on donations.
- 4.7 Acquires art works which do not duplicate existing holdings.

5. Acquisition Process

- 5.1 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 endorsement by Manager of Arts and Culture before final approval to the Chief Executive Officer.
- 5.2 Appraisal of potential acquisitions are not undertaken at the collection store. Only approved acquisitions enter the collection store.
- 5.3 All acquisitions are numbered, labelled, photographed and entered into the collection catalogue and records.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 The City is not bound to acquire any work.

6. Loans

- 6.1 The City of Fremantle does not accept permanent or indefinite loans. The collection may accept loans from time to time for exhibition purposes only.
- 6.2 All inward loans will be for a fixed time and will be documented under a Loan Agreement with the lender.
- 6.3 All outward loans are required to be made undersigned agreement with the City of Fremantle.
- 6.4 All outward loans are to be insured by the recipient organisation for the duration of the hire period as specified in an Outward Going Loan Agreement.
- 6.5 All loans to the collection are properly cared for in keeping with the standards outlined in this policy.

7. De-accessioning and disposal

- 7.1 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 Collection Policy. This process is known as de-accession.
- 7.2 The Curator may, from time to time, recommend works for de-accessioning to Council.
- 7.3 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 consultation with Council.
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 De-accessioned work may only be acquired by Councillors or City of Fremantle staff through the approved public processes outlined in this Policy.
- 7.6 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.

Definitions and abbreviations

Nil.

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