



MOSMAN ART COLLECTION POLICY

Public Document

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Ownership: Community Development

Purpose

To detail the guidelines and processes for the acquisition, management and deaccessioning of all works for the Mosman Art Collection.

Objectives

To:

- Develop and maintain a visual art collection of national significance and repute that reflects the cultural aspirations of Mosman Council and its expressed goals and policies.
- Collect contemporary and historical works of visual art of demonstrable excellence by artists of significance with an emphasis on Australian artists and artists who have an important connection to the Mosman and/or Northern Sydney community.
- Collect and commission selectively works of art which contribute to the exhibition program of the Mosman Regional Art Gallery and which enhance the buildings and grounds of Mosman Council and which foster an understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts among the community and members of the general public.
- Collect selective works of significance for the development of research and reference collections, which support the Mosman Regional Art Gallery's commitment to the study and preservation of Australian visual arts and/or works which have an important connection to the Mosman and/or Northern Sydney community.

Scope

The Mosman Art Collection is the official art collection of Mosman Council and the works of the Collection fall under the direct care and control of the Mosman Regional Art Gallery.

The Mosman Art Collection Policy is applicable to the Mosman Art Collection only. It does not apply to other cultural materials collected by Mosman Council including Local Studies items or general decorative items or artworks owned, managed and displayed by organisational units of Mosman Council.

In the event that Mosman Council is at some time in the future merged with one or more other Councils, it is the intention of Mosman Council that the Mosman Art Collection continues to be classified as a separate collection within any merged Council's art holdings and that care and control of the Mosman Art Collection remain the responsibility of the Mosman Regional Art Gallery.

Guidelines for acquisition

Criteria for acquisition

Mosman Council/Mosman Regional Art Gallery collects works of visual art within the terms of the collection policy whether by purchase, commission, gift or donation in the following categories, listed in descending order of emphasis:

1. Works of demonstrable excellence by artists of significance, with an emphasis on Australian artists and/or artists who have an important connection to the Mosman and/or Northern Sydney community.
2. Works from significant collections or collectors that have a connection to the Mosman and/or Northern Sydney community.
3. Site-specific works of art and/or works suitable for the display conditions of sites within Mosman Council's buildings and/or the public domain.

4. Works of significance for the purpose of developing identified research and reference collections and which reflect the cultural aspirations of the Mosman Regional Art Gallery.
5. Works of art which contribute to the congruence of the collection.

Acquisitions procedures and agreements

Acquisition to the Collection can be made by:

- Purchase
- Commission
- Gift
- Donation
- Long term loan

With the exception of the Mosman Art Prize acquisition (acquired through winning entry), all works of art proposed for acquisition by Mosman Art Collection must be approved by the Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director (subject to relevant delegations, or otherwise by the General Manager or Council) prior to acquisition. Only the Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director has the right (again, subject to relevant delegations or otherwise by the General Manager or Council) to reserve works and/or make an offer of purchase of art works for Council. All art works approved for acquisition will be formally accessioned into the Mosman Art Collection by the Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director.

The Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director, when approving art works to be acquired, will give due consideration to:

- the management and resource implications of accepting loans, gifts or purchases
- the financial and legal implications of accepting improperly valued loans or gifts or improperly priced purchases
- insurance requirements
- all acquisitions are approved on the basis that adequate provisions exist for cataloguing, conservation, maintenance, storage and exhibition of a professional standard
- all works must be in excellent condition

Clear legal title must be substantiated and is required for all art works permanently acquired, including objects of local or international ethnic cultural origin. If clear title cannot be provided, a proposed acquisition should not proceed. Acquisitions must be documented by a signed form or agreement. Title will pass to Mosman Council and not to any individual or organisational unit.

Copyright in each of the art works shall remain the property of the artist. At the time of purchase or acquisition Council will request permission to create and publish images of the artwork.

No person involved in the policy or management of the Mosman Art Gallery may compete with the Mosman Art Collection for works of art proposed for acquisition, or take advantage of privileged information received due to their position. Special care is required in considering any offer of an item either for sale or as a tax benefit gift from members of governing bodies, members of staff or their families or close associates.

Donations/gifts/long-term loan

Gifts to the Collection are encouraged, provided such gifts are within the Collection Policy guidelines. The Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director has the right to accept or refuse such offers of gifts as they occur.

Gifts are only accepted where the donor has legal title to the work and the gift is made on the basis of a total transfer from the donor to Mosman Council.

Mosman Art Collection Policy

Works of art offered on a long-term loan basis are only accepted on the understanding that the work will eventually be donated to the Council. Such an agreement will be formally documented before the work is accepted for loan.

The Mosman Regional Art Gallery is registered as a Participating Recipient Institution under the Federal Government's Cultural Gifts Program. The Program is administered in accordance with the gift provisions of the income tax law and with the advice of technical experts. The Cultural Gifts Program is administered by a secretariat based in the Ministry for the Arts.

Collection reporting and management

The Collection is maintained and displayed in accordance with industry standards and conventions of museum conservation, handling, storage, record-keeping (including a central catalogue containing photographs of each object, a brief description, and an accession number) and security.

The Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director is responsible for the overall management of the Collection. The Gallery Director includes a listing of new Collection works acquired during the previous financial year in Council's Annual Report. Mosman Regional Art Gallery staff undertake a stocktake and condition report audit of the Collection once every four years.

Commissioning works of art, including official portraits and site-specific public art works are undertaken by the Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director (or otherwise by the General Manager or Council) in accordance with the Collection Policy and relevant Council delegations. The Mosman Public Art Trust has been established for the funding/commissioning of public art works.

Collection loans and display

Works of art from the Collection are available for temporary exhibition loans on approval by the Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director, subject to the borrowers agreement to the conditions specified in the Mosman Regional Art Gallery Collection Loan Agreement.

Works from the Collection will be available for temporary exhibition loans in the following order of priority:

1. Mosman Regional Art Gallery exhibitions
2. Temporary Exhibition Loans
3. Key public areas of Mosman Council (eg Council Rooms, library, offices)

Historically, certain works have been associated with a particular location or organisational unit (such as the John Coburn tapestry in the Library) and due consideration of the provenance and history of locating a work of art will be given.

The relevant organisational unit Manager or nominee will be responsible for monitoring works displayed, and will report any changes or modifications to the location and environment conditions to the Mosman Regional Art Gallery.

Collection loan requests will be made through the Mosman Art Gallery. The Mosman Regional Art Gallery will endeavour to accommodate requests, however the Mosman Regional Art Gallery reserves the right to locate works in the Collection where deemed appropriate. The relevant Manager will be advised of any proposals to move works of art on display.

Works of art on display must not be moved without prior approval from the Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director. The Director or his/her staff or nominee/s will manage the movement of works of art on display.

De-accessioning art works

The Mosman Art Collection has been developed over many years. Prior to adoption of this policy, additions to the collection have reflected a range of determinations regarding artistic merit and other considerations including local relevance. This policy provides that, to maintain and safeguard standards, all works within the Collection are to be subject to periodic review. Works will be considered on a case-by-case basis for de-accessioning based on the following criteria:

1. relevance to the Art Collection Policy
2. artistic merit
3. duplication
4. theft or loss, damage or serious deterioration in condition
5. the possibility of upgrading by exchange
6. repatriation of cultural material
7. evidence of clear legal title
8. suitability for either the identified research collections or exhibition/display purposes

The Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director is (subject to relevant delegations, or otherwise by the General Manager or Council) responsible for endorsing the disposal of art works from the Art Collection, as and when appropriate. Works identified for disposal will be valued by a recognised valuer and offered for sale or donation, in the following priority order:

1. to another public gallery or collection
2. through an auction house
3. the artist of the work

De-accessioning and disposal of works or art are initiated and undertaken by the Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director. De-accessioning and disposal of works within the Collection may only occur with the written approval of the General Manager.

Funds or compensation received from the de-accessioning and disposal of works of art from the Art Collection are used solely for the benefit of the Mosman Regional Art Gallery and usually for acquisitions, or as directed by the Mosman Regional Art Gallery Director.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every four years unless otherwise directed by Council or senior management.

Contact

Enquiries should be directed to the Manager Cultural Services/Gallery Director on 9978 4009.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Reference
10.11.2015	Art Gallery - Acquisitions policy replaced by this adopted policy (Mosman Art Collection)	CD/25