



MOSMAN ART COLLECTION POLICY

Public Document

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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 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 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 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.

Guidelines for acquisition

Criteria for acquisition

Mosman Council 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 (including Indigenous 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 Mosman Council.
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 offers to reserve, purchase or otherwise acquire works for the Mosman Art Collection must be approved, in accordance with relevant delegations, by the Mosman Art Gallery Director, the General Manager or Council prior to acquisition. All art works approved for acquisition will be formally accessioned into the Mosman Art Collection by the Mosman Art Gallery Director.

The Mosman Art Gallery Director, General Manager or Council, 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
- provenance of the artwork
- 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 management of the Mosman Art Gallery may compete with Mosman Council 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 Art Gallery Director, in consultation with the General Manager where appropriate, 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.

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.

Mosman Art Collection Policy

The Mosman 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 Art Gallery Director is responsible for the overall management of the Collection. The Gallery Director will regularly report the acquisition of new Collection works to Council through the Arts and Culture Community Consultative Committee (A&CCCC). Mosman Art Gallery staff will undertake a stocktake and condition report audit and valuation 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 Art Gallery Director or otherwise by the General Manager or Council in accordance with the Collection Policy and relevant Council delegations.

Collection loans and display

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

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

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

When displayed in Council areas, the on-site 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 Art Gallery staff.

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

Collection loan requests will be made through the Mosman Art Gallery. The Mosman Art Gallery will endeavour to accommodate both external and internal requests, however the Gallery reserves the right to loan or locate works in the Collection where deemed appropriate.

Repository for Collection

To safeguard the original purpose of the Collection (as a collection of works of art for the promotion of the arts among and enjoyment by the residents of the local government area of Mosman) Council established the Mosman Art Collection Trust in December 2015. According to the Trust deed, Council shall use reasonable and proper efforts to ensure that apart from temporary exhibiting of works in other locations, the Collection shall be stored on a permanent basis within the local government area of Mosman as it currently exists in locations such as the Gallery, the Civic Centre, Council's buildings and the public domain.

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 Mosman 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
9. availability of appropriate capacity for storage or display

The Mosman 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

Art works donated under the Commonwealth Government's Cultural Gifts Scheme will follow the first two points of the priority order listed above but under no circumstance will the works be returned to the artist or donor of the works.

De-accessioning and disposal of works or art are initiated and undertaken by the Mosman 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 by Mosman Art Gallery in support of the cultural aspirations of Mosman Council.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every four years unless otherwise directed by Council or the Executive Team.

Related Information/Glossary

Mosman Public Art Policy (2023)
Mosman Art Collection Trust Deed (2015)

Contact

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

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Reference