

VUW ART COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection (VUW Art Collection) is a university campus display collection, managed by the Adam Art Gallery (AAG). The VUW Art Collection is the property of Victoria University of Wellington (VUW).

The AAG Director has overall responsibility for the care, management and exhibition of the VUW Art Collection.

In 2010 the VUW Art Collection comprises:

- Victoria University Collection
- the Hall Collection
- those works from the Wellington College of Education collection accessioned in to the Collection in 2009
- works on loan to VUW (other than the Staff Club collection)
- the Staff Club Collection, which is on permanent loan to the VUW Art Collection

It does not comprise:

- the University's portraits, which are administered directly by the Council
- works on loan from the Rutherford Trust (these works have now all been relocated to Te Aratoi in Masterton)
- works acquired by University Programmes, Schools, Faculties, Units, Centres or the possession of individual staff members.

Such works are the property of respective owners. While they may be covered by the University's general insurance policy, they are not managed by the Adam Art Gallery.

Currently, the VUW Art Collection comprises mainly two-dimensional work, primarily New Zealand painting since the 1960s, with a small number of important works from the 1930s and 1940s, and a limited number of sculptures, photographs works on paper, and other items.

The VUW Art Collection is on permanent display in public areas of campus buildings for the benefit of students, staff and visitors to the university.

The VUW Collection is a resource for research, study, exhibition, and the cultural and educational enrichment of the University and wider community. Works from the VUW Art Collection are periodically seen in AAG exhibitions.

The level of care applied to the collection is appropriate to its nature as a campus display collection and accordingly differs from museum standards. Security over art works during working hours is minimal. The university insures all works for replacement value. Collection Development Policies include Collection Objectives and the Acquisition Policy, accompanied by Acquisition and Deaccession Procedures. Collection Management Policies provide guidelines for exhibition and display, resources, care and conservation, record management, reproduction and photography. Policies operate in association with standard documentation for Outward and Inward Loans and Movement of Works of Art procedures.

2. COLLECTION OBJECTIVES

1. To enhance the significance of the VUW Art Collection and develop a representative collection of post 1960 New Zealand art, according to collection priorities and criteria.
2. To manage, preserve and display the VUW Art Collection, including to:
 - catalogue, handle and administer the VUW Art Collection to professional standards;
 - present works in public areas on campus and in a range of contexts in AAG exhibitions, according to best possible standards;
 - make works available for external exhibitions, where the nature and environment of the exhibition is appropriate;
 - preserve, conserve and restore works where warranted according to the value and condition of the work.
3. To promote and provide access to the VUW Art Collection through display, exhibition and publication in a range of media, including Internet access.
4. To encourage and activate research, archival documentation and interpretation of the VUW Art Collection and its history.
5. To stimulate awareness of visual art as a teaching and research resource at VUW.
6. To attract external patronage through purchase, commissions, gifts and donations of works that comply with the acquisition priorities and criteria and collection guidelines for the VUW Art Collection. Target sources of support with identified projects.

3. ACQUISITION OF ARTWORKS

Authorisation

The Adam Art Gallery Advisory Board (in the capacity of its members who are Trustees of the VUW Art Collection Trust)¹ approves the purchase, gift and bequest of works of art to the VUW Art Collection. All proposals for acquisition are to be presented by the Director for approval by the Board following the procedures outlined in the acquisition proposal process.²

¹ See AAG Advisory Board Terms of Reference (Oct 2007)

² Approved AAG Advisory Board Meeting 08/01 March 2008

In respect of acquisitions, the role of the Board is:

- to consider and approve works of art for purchase for the VUW Art Collection, according to the current acquisition criteria and nominated acquisition budget.
- to consider and approve donations, gifts, bequests and loans of work to the VUW Art Collection (excluding temporary loans for exhibitions at the AAG).

VUW will not purchase works of art from current full-time staff or Board members, whether or not they are the author of the work, except with the express unanimous approval of the Adam Art Gallery Advisory Board.

Resources

The VUW Art Collection Trust will ensure that adequate resources are available for acquisitions annually. Its funds will be managed to maximise the monies available for this purpose.

Acquisition Criteria

Works will be acquired or accepted through purchase, donation, gift or bequest into the VUW Art Collection where they:

- are works of quality or significance indicating the development of New Zealand art
- enrich the collection as a whole, or relate to existing works in the collection and the history or community of the University (these may be historical works or works by New Zealand or international visual artists)
- accord with current priorities in collecting (to be assessed annually).

Priorities are reviewed annually by the Director and approved by the Advisory Board.

Acquisition of works from the core period of the existing collection (1960s onwards) have priority, but works beyond this period are not excluded.

Acquisitions should demonstrate an increasingly fair representation of Maori and Pacific artists.

Acquisition priorities must consider the environment and security conditions of the campus and availability of resources to manage, preserve and display work.

There may be exceptions to the above, where opportunities to acquire exceptional works of art are agreed by the Advisory Board.

Gifts

Gifts, donations and bequests to the VUW Art Collection will be sought and encouraged with the objective of enhancing the significance and representativeness of the Collection. On the recommendation of the Director, the Advisory Board has the right to accept or refuse offers of gifts.

Gifts and bequests of works shall be in accordance with the Terms of Gift or Bequest to the VUW Collection. This document must be agreed, completed and signed by both parties prior to the gift or bequest taking effect.

Moral Rights

When acquiring works of art, VUW and the AAG will recognise the moral rights of artists whereby:

- proper acknowledgement of authorship is given in display labels at all times when works are exhibited, and in all publicity where such works are referred to or reproduced;
- respect is given to the presentation requirements specified for works in the collection;
- when commissioning works, written agreements are made with artists on matters of copyright, insurance, fees, installation, changes prior to completion;
- all reasonable measures are taken for a campus collection, to ensure works are not intentionally destroyed, mutilated, distorted, or altered except for bona fide conservation work.

In general, artists retain copyright of their work and their permission or that of their estate must be gained prior to reproduction (see VUW Art Collection Management Policy, section 6.)

Other

VUW will not acquire, whether by purchase, gift or bequest, any object unless valid title to the object can be acquired.

The AAG reserves the right to negotiate varied approaches to payment for acquisitions, including phased payment, for the maximum benefit of the VUW Collection.

Matters of confidentiality will be respected and prices paid for works will not normally be disclosed.

The Gallery will compile and acquire documentation, books and other research materials that assist the interpretation of works in the VUW Art Collection.

In acquiring and exhibiting works, the interests of VUW will be sole consideration. At all times the Advisory Board shall ensure that they do not place themselves in a situation involving conflict of interest with the university.

4. DEACCESSION

Ownership: Only items to which VUW has clear and unrestricted title may be removed from the VUW Art Collection.

Conditions: Gifts and bequests are subject to the terms agreed on donation or at the time of the bequest.

Works will be considered for deaccession only in the case of proper reasons, limited to:

- non-compliance with the nature or objectives of the VUW Art Collection
- evidence that the work is not authentic

- by its condition a work is no longer suitable to be part of the VUW Art Collection, for reasons of damage or deterioration beyond conservation or repair, if the work has become dangerous or if the cost of conservation is greater than the insurance value of the work or if increased value of the work causes security and insurance concerns
- loss or theft (after a period of three years works shall be deemed irretrievable and may be deaccessioned)
- for any other reason approved by the Advisory Board.

Deaccessioning a work will not occur less than:

- Five years from date of acquisition for works valued under \$5,000
- Ten years from date of acquisition for works valued over \$5,000.

Any proceeds gained from deaccessioning or disposal of work will be credited solely to the VUW Art Collection Trust Fund.

The procedures for approval, disposal, application of proceeds and catalogue records shall comply with the Deaccession of Artwork Procedures.