

INFORMATION FOR STAFF

HISTORY OF THE COLLECTION

The Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection was initiated by University staff in 1947, who voted to set aside funds to purchase original works of New Zealand art for the University common room. Since then it has grown to become a nationally significant collection of modern and contemporary New Zealand art. The Adam Art Gallery manages the Collection and works with the Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection Trust to care for and develop it for the benefit of staff, students and the wider public. It now numbers more than 500 items and comprises the Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection, the Staff Club Collection, the Hall Collection and the Wellington College of Education Collection. It consists of paintings, sculptures, photographs and works on paper that have been purchased, gifted and are on loan to the Collection. These are displayed in public spaces on all campuses.

The purposes of the collection are to:

- enhance the physical spaces of the University;
- showcase a representative collection of New Zealand art;
- serve as a teaching tool;
- and reinforce the University's status as a creative and cultural leader.

THE COLLECTION AND YOU

While the Adam Art Gallery is responsible for the management of the Collection, we cannot monitor it at all times. As a member of the University community, we rely on your assistance to ensure that the Collection is cared for and able to be enjoyed by all.

We ask that you:

Look Around, Notice, and Enjoy the Collection

We invite you to take pride in it, share it with visitors and students. We are here if you wish to learn more about it. Works in the Collection are identified by labels. If a work does not have a label, do not assume it is not part of the Collection, but check with Gallery staff for clarification.

Take responsibility for the Collection

You can often help, for example, by moving a seat or pot plant, rubbish bin or display stand that is dangerously close to a work of art. You might even draw a work of art to the attention of students or staff who may be unwittingly putting it at risk.

Take action to avert potential or actual damage

Never lean against an artwork, or place objects or furniture on or near artworks. Always contact Gallery staff if you notice a work has been damaged or is in danger, or in these circumstances:

- repairing or painting of surfaces on which works of art are hung
- sanding, washing, or activities that create dust, dirt or moisture in the vicinity of artworks
- accessing areas such as wall or ceiling panels that might accidentally damage to artworks

Never handle or move an artwork

Always contact Gallery staff. We require at least *10 working days' notice* for non-urgent requests.

Use the Collection

We are always happy to provide information about works in the collection or take tours for you and your students. You are also welcome to reproduce artworks from the Collection in external or internal publications but you must always seek our assistance. We can provide high quality images for these purposes and help you gain copyright clearances.

Let us know what you think

We are happy to know your opinions, but will not move or hang works based on personal preference. We welcome suggestions for new acquisitions or accept proposals for gifts. These are assessed by the Adam Art Gallery Director in light of the Collection Development Policy and approved by the Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection Trust.

Know our limits

The Collection is reserved for the University's public spaces. If you want to hang your own work of art in your office you may do this. You are responsible for the care and presentation of your own artworks and they are not covered by the University's insurance policy. Some programmes, schools and faculties have acquired works of art for various reasons. These are not the responsibility of the Adam Art Gallery. We can hang or move such artworks but we charge an hourly rate to do so. We can also provide information and contact details for professional installers, framers, restorers, etc. Campus Services can assist with insurance. Contact insurance-help@vuw.ac.nz for more information.

KEY CONTACTS:

Christina Barton, Director of the Adam Art Gallery with overall responsibility for the Collection and its development. Tel: 463 5254 christina.barton@vuw.ac.nz

Sophie Thorn, Collection Officer, responsible for care, documentation and hanging of Collection. Tel: 463 6835 collectionofficer@vuw.ac.nz

Andy Cummins, Exhibition Officer responsible for movement, storage and hanging of Collection. Tel: 463 6835 andy.cummins@vuw.ac.nz

Ann Gale, Gallery Administrator, for general enquiries relating to the Collection
Tel: 463 6835 ann.gale@vuw.ac.nz

The Adam Art Gallery Office is in Old Kirk 314 (OK 314) on the Kelburn Campus. Collection policies, information about artworks and artists, loan and reproduction request forms, incident reports and movement requests can be accessed and processed here.

Further information about the collection can be found at: www.adamartgallery.org.nz/collection
A publication about the collection and profiling key works is available from the Gallery:

William McAloon (ed) *Victoria's Art: A University Collection*, Adam Art Gallery, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, 2005.