

Acquisition of Artwork Policy

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Purpose:

This policy establishes guidelines and requirements relating to the acquisition of artworks by Murdoch University for inclusion in its official Art Collection.

Founded in 1975, Murdoch University Art Collection is a vibrant and continually developing collection, which reflects and celebrates the creative vitality and diversity of Australian contemporary visual arts practice.

The Collection has an annual budget for the purchase of artwork which is provided through financial contribution from the University. In addition, the acquisition of artworks is considerably expanded through the donation of artworks from generous patrons, bequest funds and fundraising campaigns coordinated by the University's Art Board.

Audience:

Staff, public

Objectives:

- To enable the University to acquire high-quality culturally significant Australian artwork via donation or purchase for the enjoyment and cultural, artistic, educational and intellectual enrichment of the Murdoch University community.
- To develop and maintain a discerning collection which is national in scope and culturally significant.

Definitions:

Any defined terms below are specific to this document. The definition of common terms appears in the Murdoch University Dictionary of Terms.

There are no terms.

Policy Statement:

1. The Art Curator will process, manage, or make any financial contribution towards the framing, display, storage or conservation of artwork purchased or donated under the jurisdiction of the University's Art Board. Artworks accepted as donation by other areas of the University (departments/offices/faculties etc.) will be the sole responsibility of those areas.

2. In some cases, the Collection may accept or assert control over an artwork acquired by another area of the University if the University's Art Board deems it culturally significant and relevant to its current acquisitions strategy.

3. **Purchase of Artwork**

Commencing each January, the Art Curator in consultation with the Art Board, will review and revise the yearly acquisitions strategy, the planning document which assists in guiding the Art Curator's selection of artworks prioritised for purchase in that calendar year.

4. **Donation of Artwork**

- 4.1. The Art Board encourages the donation of artworks to Murdoch University Art Collection. This is encouraged via the Australian Government's *Cultural Gifts Program* to provide the greatest benefit to the donor and achieve more significant donations to enter the Collection.
- 4.2. Artworks offered will be considered for their relevancy to the Collection's themes and content as detailed in *Acquisition of Artworks Procedure*.
- 4.3. Artworks donations are offered on the understanding that:
 - 4.3.1. They will be submitted to Murdoch University Art Board for consideration prior to any formal acceptance. The Board will consider whether or not to accept the artwork.
 - 4.3.2. The location, retention, cataloguing and preservation of donated artwork as well as other considerations relating to their use or disposition are at the discretion of the Art Curator in consultation with the Art Board.
 - 4.3.3. The donation become the property of Murdoch University and may not be claimed back at a later date by the donor or members of the donor's family or estate.
 - 4.3.4. Donation offers may be rejected if the donor wishes to place limitations or restrictions on the use or disposal of the artwork.
 - 4.3.5. It is Murdoch University Art Collection's policy that donated artwork is integrated into the existing collection. All donations are subject to the same conditions of use as the remainder of the Murdoch University Art Collection. However, the Art Board may recommend changes to standard procedures relating to integration of gifts into the existing collection or restrictions on the use of gifts, in the interests of securing major donations.
 - 4.3.6. Artworks must normally be donated in excellent condition. The Art Board may make exceptions and override conservation concerns if it is deemed there are sufficient mitigating circumstances and art historical reasons for the potential inclusion of the work in the collection. In such circumstance a conservation report will be sought and presented to the Art Board and included in the determination process.

- 4.3.7. Approval of donations is contingent upon adequate provisions existing for cataloguing, conservation, maintenance, storage and display at a professional standard.
- 4.3.8. Diplomatic and commemorative gifts from local and/or international collaborations/relationships are normally not relevant or accepted as part of the Murdoch University Art Collection.
- 4.3.9. Donations of artworks by artists not already included in the collection will be considered with care. Normally, the collection will only accept donations of work from artists eligible for acquisition if they would otherwise qualify for purchase.
- 4.3.10. Artwork donations which fall outside policy guidelines maybe accepted in exceptional circumstances and after consideration by the Art Board.
- 4.3.11. No further correspondence will be entered into once the Art Board has made a final decision.

Performance Indicators:

There are no performance indicators.

Related Documents:

[Acquisition of Artwork Procedure](#)

References:

Australia. Department of Communications and the Arts. (2018). *Cultural Gifts Program*. Retrieved from <https://www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/cultural-gifts-program>

Approval and Implementation:

Approval Authority:	Vice Chancellor
Responsible Officer(s):	Art Curator
Approval Authority for supporting procedures:	Murdoch University Art Board
Approval Authority for supporting guidelines:	There are no supporting guidelines
Approval Authority for supporting standards:	There are no supporting standards
Contact Officer:	Art Curator

Revision History:

Approved/ Amended/ Rescinded	Date Approved	Effective Date	Next Review Date	Resolution No. (if applicable)
Reviewed with no amendments	23/11/2017	23/11/2017	23/11/2020	
Approved	10/09/2014	10/09/2014	10/09/2017	
Approved	20/03/2006	20/03/2006	20/03/2009	