



Name of Policy	Policy and Procedures on the Acquisition of Works of Art	
Description of Policy	This policy and procedures elaborate the principles for acquisition of art works by Australian Catholic University and for the development and maintenance of the University collection.	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Policy		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revision 12 November 2010
Description of Revision	This policy and procedures, together with the Policy and Procedures on the Exhibition of Works of Art, replace the former Art Exhibition and Collection Policy.	

Policy and Revision Number	2010/1
Original Effective Date	
Review Due Date	January 2014
Revision Effective Date	
Approval Date	January 2011
Approved By	Vice-Chancellor

POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON THE ACQUISITION OF WORKS OF ART

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POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON THE ACQUISITION OF WORKS OF ART

Preamble

This policy and procedures elaborate the principles for acquisition of art works by Australian Catholic University and for the development and maintenance of the University collection. In support of this policy and procedures the University has established the University Galleries Committee (see Appendix 1).

The place of the arts within Australian Catholic University is explicitly identified in its Mission Statement as follows:

Through fostering and advancing knowledge in education, health, commerce, the humanities, the sciences and technologies, and the creative arts, Australian Catholic University seeks to make specific contributions to its local, national and international communities.

Further, the *University Strategic Plan 2009-2011* highlights the basic nature of Australian Catholic University thus:

As a Catholic university, it pursues all its activities, including its research and teaching within the Catholic intellectual tradition. This necessitates a deep commitment to research, as well as teaching. It manifests itself in a continuing exploration of the sacred, the value of the human person and the common good.¹

1.0 Rationale for the Art Collection

1.1 The *Policy and Procedures on the Acquisition of Works of Art* within an institution such as Australian Catholic University should align with the broad educational principles governing the rest of the University, so that the collection can interact with the various academic activities of the University and contribute to an enriched education for members of the University. Like other aspects of the University, the collection should also engage with the wider community. It should therefore derive from the University's identity and mission and Strategic Plan.

1.2 As far as the *Policy and Procedures on the Acquisition of Works of Art* are concerned, the University's Mission Statement and Strategic Plan reflect:

- the Catholic identity of the University;
- all that is of concern to human beings;
- bringing a distinctive spiritual perspective to the common tasks of higher education;
- fostering and advancing knowledge in the creative arts;
- making a specific contribution to local, national and international communities.

The policy can contribute to the University's mission in a variety of ways, by promoting:

- Catholic identity;

¹ *Australian Catholic University Strategic Plan 2009 -2011*, p. 2.

- exploration of the interface between the spirituality and art;
- an understanding of the nature of art, and of the relationship of artistic practice and artistic production to other forms of human knowledge; and
- an understanding of the place of art in local, national and international communities.

2.0 Functions of the Collection

In developing acquisition criteria for the University collection, the University will bear in mind several functions which the collection is to serve:

- 2.1 Celebrating Catholic identity: to integrate works of art which celebrate Catholic identity in the experience of the University community;
- 2.2 Celebrating education: to acquaint students and staff with a range of works of art in such a way that they understand why such works are as they are, and how they relate to the sorts of debates undertaken in their formal University work;
- 2.3 Celebrating aesthetics: to engage the University in aesthetic experience. Works are chosen specifically to complement or enhance the aesthetics of the University architecture. The art collection is an integral part of the everyday environment of the University community.
- 2.4 The collection includes a number of three-dimensional site-specific works designed for permanent location in designated areas within a particular campus.

3.0 Material Parameters within which Acquisition should Operate

- 3.1 Period: The collection will consist of works from a range of historical periods.
- 3.2 Artists: While the majority of the University's acquisitions will inevitably be works by artists not yet nationally famous, particular effort will be made to acquire significant work by artists not yet represented in any substantial way in the collection. Opportunity to acquire student work should be encouraged (see Section 5). The collection can also be a way of fostering community links, in line with the Strategic Plan.
- 3.3 All acquisitions must comply with University financial and asset management policies and procedures (see http://www.acu.edu.au/staff/our_university/directorates,_offices_and_their_units/finance/)
- 3.4 A national register will record works held by the University which are valued at least at \$5,000 (2011) and will be updated at least annually. The register will be held by the Office of the Director of Properties.
- 3.5 For educational, insurance and archival purposes, works in the University collection valued at least at \$5,000 and other works considered of special significance will be documented photographically. That material plus the provenance record will be held by the Office of the Director of Properties.

4.0 Donations and Loans

- 4.1 Works of art may also be donated or loaned to the University by members of the University community or external donors. Such works will normally be submitted to the University Galleries Committee or a sub-committee thereof for consideration, if they are to be part of the University's collection. The University will retain the right to decline any work offered for donation or loan.
- 4.2 In considering donations and loans to the collection, the Committee or a sub-committee thereof may advise on locations for such items.
- 4.3 All donations, bequests or gifts of artwork must be unencumbered and comply with the relevant sections of the Taxation Act.
- 4.4 All major donations shall be applied to the University Foundation within Marketing and External Relations to provide dedicated accountability and acknowledgement to benefactors.
- 4.5 Works may be received on permanent or short-term loan.
- 4.6 As appropriate, works may also be leased from commercial galleries or artists.
- 4.7 In considering de-accession of works of art, advice may be sought from the University Galleries Committee or a sub-committee thereof.

5.0 Visual Arts Graduating Students' Acquisition Awards

- 5.1 There will be up to three University awards annually, one from each of the Brisbane, Melbourne and Strathfield campuses.
- 5.2 The University reserves the right to make no award(s) in a given year.
- 5.3 The awards are open to all graduating students completing a visual arts or design major.
- 5.4 Under the award scheme, an artwork will be chosen for the Acquisition Award by the relevant Associate Vice-Chancellor, in consultation with the local Gallery Coordinator, from the final assessment submissions of all eligible students at each of the Brisbane, Melbourne and Strathfield campuses.
- 5.5 Each award, which is funded by the relevant Associate Vice-Chancellor, is valued at \$500 (2011). The value of the award will be reviewed annually by the University Galleries Committee.
- 5.6 In addition, the relevant Associate Vice-Chancellor will provide each winner with a certificate acknowledging his/her achievement.
- 5.7 The work becomes the property of the University – graduating students completing a visual arts or design major have the right not to participate in the awards scheme, if their work is not available for acquisition by the University.

6.0 Funding for and Maintenance of the Collection

Major purchases of works of art and/or their maintenance are customarily funded centrally, including within capital projects. Each Associate Vice-Chancellor and Campus Dean will also normally allocate an annual budget for the purchase and maintenance of art works.

Appendix 1

University Galleries Committee	
<p>Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive Dean of Arts and Sciences (<i>Chair</i>)• Gallery Coordinator Brisbane• Gallery Coordinator Melbourne• Gallery Coordinator Strathfield• External member <p>The Committee seeks expert advice, as appropriate, in relation to curation, valuation, marketing, finance, insurance, facilities, etc.</p>	<p>Date of establishment: 16 April 2003</p> <p>Meeting frequency: 2-3 times per year</p> <p>Responsible Officer: Executive Dean of Arts and Sciences</p> <p>Executive Officer: Executive Assistant to the Executive Dean of Arts and Sciences</p>
<p>Terms of Reference:</p> <p>The University Galleries Committee, which reports to the Vice-Chancellor, has the following Terms of Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to develop and monitor the implementation of acquisitions, collection and exhibitions policies and procedures throughout the University;• to provide an interface between the University's galleries and local gallery advisory committees;• to foster cross-campus collection development and exhibitions;• to refer matters to local gallery advisory committees for consideration and report;• to receive minutes and consider reports from local gallery advisory committees;• to develop the profile of the University in the Visual Arts;• to promote community engagement through the Visual Arts;• to provide advice to the Vice-Chancellor on acquisitions, collection development and exhibitions; and• to consider other matters referred by the Vice-Chancellor.	
<p>Review: The Committee reviews its procedures and membership as it deems necessary and recommends accordingly to the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor revised the membership in February 2011 when the Executive Dean of Arts and Sciences was made <i>ex officio</i> chair.</p>	