



ART ACQUISITION POLICY

October 2014

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for the acquisition, commission, display and management of The Stonnington Art Collection of two- and three-dimensional works including art in the public domain.

VISION:

To continually develop an Art Collection of outstanding calibre and artistic merit that is recognised as an asset to the City of Stonnington and its community.

RATIONALE:

The rationale of the Art Acquisition Policy is to achieve a dynamic collection of contemporary and public artworks of cultural value and benefit for the City of Stonnington.

Works will be installed in accessible locations in Council buildings or on public land. The Policy recognises the Contemporary Art Collection, which includes works of art in the public domain, as a valuable community asset and source of Stonnington's cultural identity and pride.

SCOPE:

This Policy will be implemented within the scope of the Arts and Cultural Strategy 2011-2015.

This Art Acquisitions Policy works in tandem with Council's Art in the Public Domain Policy 2013-1015 which provides a framework and strategy for the commission of site specific works of art for display in a defined public location.

That Council has limited display space, and neither a gallery nor museum standard storage for two dimensional work should be a factor when considering proposals while this is the case. The Collection is not archival, and does not aim to be a comprehensive collection representative of a particular artist or school.

POLICY FRAMEWORK:

- Acquisitions, commissions and donations are guided by the Art Acquisitions Panel (AAP); artworks selected for recommendation by the Panel are proposed to Council. [See AAP Terms of Reference for further information.]
- The Policy facilitates the acquisition of works by artists from across emerging, mid-career and established career stages.
- The Policy facilitates the acquisition of art with an emphasis on contemporary practices.
- It embraces the opportunity to support, but is not limited to, artists with a connection to Stonnington.
- The Collection will strive to be reflective of Stonnington's and our nation's multicultural population.
- The Collection will be without gender bias.
- Artworks may be intended for interior display, or commissioned specifically for the public domain.
- A suite of artworks of art may be acquired as the direct outcome of a Stonnington Artist Residency.
- Works of art commissioned for a site-specific location may be directed to respond to set criteria, for example, spatial or functional context, or the contemporary or historical culture of Stonnington.
- Commissions for Stonnington's public domain including parks, gardens or Council buildings, must address a site-specific brief which may be developed in consultation with the AAP and will be guided by the Art in the Public Domain Policy 2013-2015.
- Acquisition proposals and commissions from external sources may be considered against this Policy.
- Artworks may be acquired by donation or bequest. Council is not obliged to accept these gifts. All gifts must be proposed in accordance with Council's sponsorship policy and the artwork will be considered by the AAP against this Acquisition Policy's framework and criteria.
- Where works are received by donation or bequest the display location may be recommended to Council by the AAP.
- Where possible, proposed artworks or similar artworks by the same artist will be made available to Councillors to view.
- Artworks will be intrinsically sound in condition and reasonably immune to deterioration in routine operations of display, packing and transportation.
- 10% of the acquisition fund will be set aside for ongoing conservation, maintenance and curatorial expenditure.

SHORTLISTED PROPOSALS:

- Artworks recommended for acquisition by the AAP will be proposed to Council.
- Each proposal will include an image, artwork details and be accompanied by a short rationale statement from the AAP.

- Proposals will be accompanied by information about the artist and exhibition reviews where available.

ACQUISITION POLICY CRITERIA:

- Artists must have a sustained professional visual arts practice, and a demonstrated exhibition and collection history.
- Where an artist is considered emerging, they must demonstrate strong potential and commitment to establishing a long term professional practice.
- Works of art are acquired or commissioned on merit, guided by the Policy acquisition criteria and the AAP's professional expertise.
- Preference is given to artists on the AAP's desiderata list.
- Preference is given to indigenous artists, particularly those from the Boon Wurrung people.
- However, the absence of a name on the desiderata list does not rule out significant and unexpected acquisition opportunities.
- Acquisitions and commissions will illustrate a wide variety of media, philosophy and technique
- Artworks may be of two or three dimensions
- Appropriate display locations must be determined in advance where possible.
- Favour may be shown towards Artists or artwork demonstrating a relevant connection to the City of Stonnington:
 - they may live, work, or study in Stonnington or have done so in the past,
 - they may be represented by a gallery located in Stonnington,
 - the artwork may refer to Stonnington's culture or people, or
 - depict its geographical area.
- The object's physical condition is excellent and suitable for its proposed location. A conservation report will be sought from a professional as needed.
- Council must have the resources to care for and safeguard the object to industry standards.
- An acquisition may be favoured where Council already owns other works of art by the same artist, from the same genre or period.
- Artworks may be purchased from reputable galleries or directly from the artist (if not represented by a gallery), commissioned, or the resulting body of work from a residency.
- Artworks must be deemed suitable for exhibition in public space.
- Artworks must be considered of value by the AAP.
- Artworks must uphold the City's brand and values.
- Council will collect ethically; external influences will not be tolerated.
- Purchases will be made in an accountable and transparent matter.
- Council will exercise due diligence in satisfying themselves that the artwork is of sound provenance and vendor or donor have good title to the object.
- Purchases must be accompanied by a Certificate of Authentication from the Vendor/Gallery where the work was purchased or an equivalent signed document from the artist.

LOANS:

- Loan requests from external institutions will be reviewed by the Visual Art Officer in conference with the Manager Economic and Cultural Development and the AAP.
- Requests will only be considered from an accredited institution, professional gallery, and/or museum. The borrower must demonstrate it maintains appropriate standards for the receipt, care and display of the object requested for loan.
- A loan contract and condition report shall be issued with all approved loans.
- The borrowing institution shall accept all responsibility for wall-to-wall insurance, crates, shipping, and repair costs associated with the loan unless otherwise specified in the loan contract.