

# Protocol

## **Art Gallery Collection Accession and De-accession Protocol**

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Adopted by EMT on Wednesday 8 September 2010

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# Art Gallery Collection Accession and De-accession Protocol

## Objective

To develop and preserve a collection of national and regional significance.

The Art Gallery Collection Accession and De-accession Protocol aims to promote a greater understanding and enjoyment of the Visual Arts and Crafts through the acquisition, preservation, display and conservation of the regions' visual arts and crafts heritage.

The Art Gallery Collection will focus on three areas:

- Australian portraits of all eras in any media and seek to reflect the diversity of the Australian community
  
- The Tweed region; artworks of regional relevance (being Northern Rivers of New South Wales and South Eastern Queensland) in any media
  
- Australian Artists' Prints

A possible exception to the above criteria would be where a single work or group of works are offered that are of sufficient quality, excellence, national relevance and interest to merit inclusion in the Art Gallery Collection.

## Accession Protocol

The Gallery will acquire significant objects through donation, bequest, purchase or transfer. Where works of art are acquired through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program, the responsibility for the cost of the valuations, where possible, will rest with the donor.

All artworks will be chosen or nominated, and ratified for acquisition to the Art Gallery Advisory Committee by the Art Gallery Director.

The Art Gallery Director may at times consider artworks of special merit for a long term loan under the Gallery's Temporary Loan Document agreement. A specific loan period will be agreed to.

## Indigenous Artworks

In the case of Indigenous art, only culturally appropriate artworks will be acquired. The Art Gallery will not acquire artworks that are deemed to be sacred / secret. The Art Gallery Director will approach the appropriate and relevant Indigenous authorities for verification and endorsement of such artworks. Where an artwork is deemed to be inappropriate, the artwork will be returned to the vendor/donor. If this is not possible the artwork will be returned to an appropriate Indigenous group for disposal.

## **Copyright**

The Tweed River Art Gallery recognises artists' copyright and moral rights over artworks. Wherever appropriate the Art Gallery will request, in writing, for limited and specific non-commercial rights to reproduce the work/s for promotional or documentation purposes.

## **De-accessioning**

There are legitimate and compelling reasons why artworks should or should not be included in a collection. De-accessioning artworks should be a rigorous and formal procedure to facilitate the disposal of artworks that are no longer seen as significant or relevant to the Art Gallery Collection Accession and De-accession Protocol.

## **De-accession Procedures**

The Gallery Director will determine whether an artwork currently held shall be considered for de-accessioning.

Artworks acquired through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program should not be returned to the donor, as the donor has previously received the benefit of a tax deduction for the gift. It is preferred that gifts donated through the Cultural Gifts Program should not be considered for de-accession unless there is a significant change in Collection Protocol.

Following the initial decision to de-accession a work there will be a one year "cooling off" period. If at the end of that time the reasons for the de-accession are still valid, the process will continue.

De-accession must be at the request of the Art Gallery Director and be ratified by the Art Gallery Advisory Committee.

## **Disposal Procedures:**

The following options will be considered, in order of preference and importance, for the disposal of a work of art from the Art Gallery Collection:

1. transfer to another appropriate cultural institution
2. exchange for a more desirable and appropriate artwork
3. use as an interpretative or educational aid
4. return to donor (except in the case where the work has been accepted through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program)
5. sold by public auction (staff and Art Gallery Advisory Committee members to be ineligible for purchase)
6. where an artwork is returned to the original owner/donor and a monetary amount is proposed for the sale of the object, the value of the object is to be determined by two valuations from accredited valuers. The cost of the valuation is to be borne by the purchaser
7. sale to interested buyer following two professional valuations being attained
8. donation of the artwork to a not-for-profit organisation if the work is deemed to be of little value or no purchaser can be found

**Review**

The Tweed River Art Gallery will conduct a review of the Protocol every three years to maintain its relevance. The review will be presented to the Tweed River Art Gallery Advisory Committee for consideration and comment.