

MASSEY UNIVERSITY VISUAL ARTS COLLECTION POLICY

Section	University Management
Contact	Office of the AVCOI&UR
Last Review	June 2014
Next Review	June 2019
Approval	SLT 15/10/206

Purpose:

The purpose of the University Visual Arts Collections is to:

- Visually express the creativity, innovation and connections that the University espouses
- Offer a distinctive, creative response to the human condition and the questions facing humanity
- Connect to the big questions around land, country, culture and fellow human beings
- Provide a collection of work that is arresting, powerful and thought provoking
- Contribute to a stimulating and aesthetically pleasing environment for the campuses
- Provide a resource for the teaching and research activities of the University
- Acknowledge and celebrate the history of Massey University and its antecedent organisation
- Provide opportunities for the study and appreciation of art by members of Massey University and the wider community

The Visual Arts Collection Committee on each of the three campuses acquires art according to the Massey University Visual Arts Collection policy.

Broad criteria and policy apply to all Massey University Visual Arts collections. The Massey University Art Collection currently comprises a number of collections. A number of these collections are now closed collections, namely the Riddet, Webster, Georgian and Colonial Silver and the William F. Massey collections. Any application to de-accession items from a closed collection that could impact on the nature of the collection, can only be considered by the University Council or delegated nominee.

The following collections are active:

- Massey University Manawatū Art Collection
- Massey University Auckland Art Collection
- Massey University College of Education Arts Trust
- Massey University Wellington Art Collection
- Massey University Library Art Collection
- Massey University Portraits Collection

Policy:

Principles of Collecting:

- To acquire works of art ethically, legally and appropriately, in accordance with University policies.

- To collect only works of art that the University is able to document, store, care for, secure and make accessible in accordance with University policy.
- To collect works of art in an effective, efficient and professional manner, with the guidelines set by funding and management constraints.
- To collect in a manner that reflects the University's adherence to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, and to the educational, research and development needs of Māori, as tangata whenua.
- To collect works of art which reflect the multi-cultural nature of society and Massey University.
- The priority is, to collect works of art by New Zealand artists, or artists that have strong New Zealand links or work by international artists with strong links to Massey University.
- The University will not acquire any artworks which have been obtained illegally, or are in contravention of the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970).

Collection Criteria:

- Works of art must be of quality and have a permanent value;
- Works of art should have relevance, and make a potential contribution to the environment, teaching or research of the University;
- Works of art may balance or strengthen the overall collection, or fill an identified gap;
- The work must not duplicate material already held in the visual arts collections across all campuses;
- Clear legal title and strong provenance are able to be established;
- There are no legal or ethical barriers to collecting the work;
- There will be a strong presumption against collecting works of art which have been damaged or modified, have deteriorated and require extensive conservation, or are incomplete;
- There is a strong presumption against collecting works of art that have special storage or maintenance requirements, where the University does not have the financial means or facilities to provide appropriate care;
- The University should have the ability to make the works of art easily accessible to staff, students, researchers, and the community through current or potential University services;
- Works of art offered for donation unconditionally will be accepted in preference to those offered conditionally; Where conditions are imposed, they will only be agreed to where they do not prevent the University carrying out its objectives for the art collection;
- In all collection activities, the University will abide by the provisions of the Copyright Act (2004) and the Privacy Act (1993).

Decommissioning Criteria:

The University regards its art collections as permanent and public collections, and would not normally de-accession artworks. The criteria for recommending a work for de-accession are that the:

- Work of art no longer fits the University's mission and objectives for the art collection;
- Work of art is extensively damaged or has irreversibly deteriorated, and conservation is not feasible;
- Work of art presents a health and safety hazard either to staff or to other works of art;
- Collection has accidentally acquired multiple copies of a work;
- Work of art is found to have been illegally or unethically acquired;
- Work of art is found to have been fraudulently created;
- Work of art is being requested for repatriation.

Works of art may only be approved for de-accessioning once the University has clearly established that:

- The University has clear legal title to the work;
- There is a valid reason for de-accessioning;
- All relevant interested parties, such as the original donors (if possible), have been consulted.

Disposal:

Disposal is the act by which the ownership of a collection item transfers from the University.

Legal or other impediments must be identified before disposal takes place. Where a work of art has been gifted or bequeathed, the wishes of the donor(s) must be acknowledged.

Collections Management:

Records related to management of art collections must be created, managed, stored and disposed of in accordance with Massey University's recordkeeping policies and procedures.

Income

Income realised from any sale of artworks may only be used for further acquisition of artwork and/or the care and conservation of the collection.

Loans:

Long term loans will not normally be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances which support the purpose of the Massey University Visual Arts Collection policy.

Short term loans may be accepted provided they are in keeping with the Principles of Collection.

All works on loan to the University will have appropriate agreements and insurance in place.

All artworks loaned by the University to a borrower approved by the University Visual Arts Collection Committee will have appropriate agreements and insurance in place.

Definitions:

The terms 'works of art', 'artworks', 'works' or 'art' include any painting, sculpture, water-colour, drawing, print, ceramic art, fibre or textile art, photograph, glass art, documentation of conceptual art, new media art, mixed media art, or site specific installations, which have been purchased, donated or bequeathed to Massey University, or any of its colleges, departments, service or research centres.

Audience:

Staff, students and the external art community.

Relevant legislation:

Copyright Act
Privacy Act
Public Records Act

Legal compliance:

Related procedures / documents:

- Massey University Visual Arts Collection Procedures and Guidelines
- Massey University Campus Visual Arts Curator – Job Description

Document Management Control:

Prepared by: AVC Operations, International and University Registrar

Authorised by: AVCOI&URr

Approved by: SLT 15/10/206

Date issued: October 2015

Last review: June 2015

Next review: June 2018

Note: *This document references the University of Canterbury Arts Collection Policy (for which permission has been granted)*