

VISUAL ARTS COLLECTION POLICY

Section	University Management
Contact	University Curator
Last Review	October 2024
Next Review	October 2026
Approval	SLT15/10/206

Purpose

The purpose of the Visual Arts Collection Policy is to provide the guiding principles for the acquisition, possession, exhibition, management, care, maintenance, and, where appropriate, deaccessioning of the University Visual Arts Collection held by Te Kunenga Ki Pūrehuroa Massey University.

The main purposes of the Visual Arts Collection are to:

- Enhance and reflect the culture and character of the University
- Enrich the learning and teaching experience through active engagement with art in all University environments
- Encouraging and supporting debate and discussion
- Recognise the longstanding place and presence of mana whenua as this is linked to our three campuses
- Explore and encourage the connection with our local and wider communities
- Be available, and create opportunities, for research and education
- Recognise individuals and events connected with the University.

Principles

The Visual Arts Collection is founded and managed based on the following principles:

- Fulfil the Collection purpose as outlined in this policy.
- Artworks acquired and held, must be able to be displayed and maintained by the University (ensuring we are appropriately able to be kaitiaki of any items we both acquire and hold) and we will seek to minimise and remove barriers to people experiencing, gaining an understanding of, and appreciating our art collection.
- The Collection will be regarded as permanent and public.
- All artworks will have clear title and be legally, ethically and culturally appropriate for the University to hold; and
- New acquisitions must meet priority level 1 or 2 as defined below. Level 3 priority will only be considered if this is endorsed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students and Global Engagement.

Priorities

- Level 1: Artworks by significant artists where the artist or subject matter is closely associated with the University (it's history or future), or its wider community.

- Level 2: Artworks where the artist or subject matter is closely associated with the University, or its wider community.
- Level 3: Other artworks.

This policy and its principles are aligned with the University Strategy.

Management

The management of the Collection falls under the delegation of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students and Global Engagement, who is advised by the University Visual Arts Committee. The University Visual Arts Committee also advises the University Curator, who acts as the operational custodian of the Collection. The terms of reference for the Committee can be found as a supporting document to this policy.

Acquisition

Artworks acquired by the University must be:

- Acquired with a consideration for necessity and cost of future physical maintenance and the art works permanence.
- Owned entirely (not as a share, or in partnership with another organisation) by the University unless endorsed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students and Global Engagement.

Possession of Artwork

The University commits to ensuring artworks are held with the intention to exhibit, or otherwise make available to the general public for experiencing.

Loans

The University will consider lending artwork to an outside organisation where:

- The loan will benefit the reputation of artist, the reputation of the University, and/or help to reduce the barriers to public access and appreciation of the artwork.
- The period for the loan is fixed.
- The borrowing institution pays all costs related to the loan.
- The borrowing institution agrees to store and exhibit the artwork securely and with adequate insurance to cover any loss or damage; and
- The University is recognised as the owner of the artwork.

The University will only borrow artworks in exceptional circumstances. These loans must:

- Be for a fixed time period.
- Be able to be stored and exhibited securely and with adequate insurance to cover any loss or damage.
- Benefit the reputation of artist, the reputation of the University, and/or help to reduce the barriers to public access and appreciation of the artwork.

Maintenance and Conservation

The University commits to:

- Ensuring the artworks condition does not deteriorate beyond what is unavoidable and can reasonably be expected due to the passage of time.
- Establishing a plan for returning damaged artwork to an exhibitable standard.

Deaccession

The University will only deaccession work when:

- The work is judged to be not of a suitable calibre to be held by the University.
- The work is not exhibitable and no plan for returning the artwork to an exhibitable state by the University can be identified.
- Ownership of the work is detrimental to the reputation of the University; or
- Under exceptional circumstances as endorsed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students and Global Engagement.

When deaccessioning artwork, the University will:

- Seek to return the artwork to the donor, where it was donated.
- Consider and make reasonable effort to return artwork to the artist who created it.
- Seek to identify a suitable public owner for the artwork; or
- Where none of the above are deemed suitable by the Committee, sell the artwork through appropriate channels with any proceeds contributing to the growth and maintenance of the Visual Arts Collection.

An artwork may only be destroyed where the above methods of deaccession have been considered and deemed unsuitable, and with approval of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students and Global Engagement.

Definitions:

“Visual Arts Collection” or **“Collection”**: comprises the general collection and in addition a number sub-collections:

- Active sub-collections:
 - o Massey University Portraits Collection
- Closed sub-collections (no further acquisitions):
 - o Riddet Collection
 - o Webster Collection
 - o Georgian and Colonial Silver Collection
 - o William F. Massey Collection
 - o Massey University Library Art Collection
 - o Mike and Alice Fitzgerald Poster Collection
 - o Massey University College of Education Arts Trust Collection

“Works of art”, “artworks”, “works” or **“art”** include painting, sculpture, water-colour, drawing, print, ceramic art, vinyl, fibre or textile art, photograph, glass art, documentation of conceptual art, time-based art, mixed media art, or site-specific installations.

Audience:

All staff, students and external stakeholders.

Relevant legislation:

Copyright Act 1994

Privacy Act 2020

Public Records Act 2005

Legal compliance:

Related procedures / documents:

Massey University Visual Arts Collection Guidelines

Massey University Visual Arts Curator – Job Description
Te Tiriti o Waitangi Policy
University Strategy 2022 – 2027
Asset Investment Policy
Asset Disposal and Write Down Policy

Document Management Control:

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