

ECU Art Collection – Acquisition Guidelines.

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Art Collection (“The Collection”) should provide a permanent and distinctive collection of high quality works reflecting the creative vitality and diversity of contemporary Australian and International visual culture, and should contribute to the educational and research enterprise of ECU and those of the wider community.
- 1.2. ECU’s reputation in teaching, research, science and technology is complemented by an emphasis on the arts and humanities. Within this context of the cultural experiences offered, the Art Collection plays a crucial role. The Collection will seek works that relate to the variety of concerns encountered in the ECU community, reflecting on important domains of human knowledge, learning and endeavour. The Collection will seek works by international artists with demonstrable relevance to the collection.

2. Categories of Acquisition:

- 2.1. The Art Collection Categories are:
 - 2.1.1. Contemporary Australian Painting;
 - 2.1.2. Contemporary Australian Craft;
 - 2.1.3. Contemporary Australian Sculpture (which includes the Joondalup Sculpture Park Commissions);
 - 2.1.4. Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island) Art, both traditional and contemporary art including artefacts;
 - 2.1.5. Contemporary Australian Photography;
 - 2.1.6. Performing Arts (which includes original set and costume designs);
 - 2.1.7. New media works;
 - 2.1.8. Selected international works; and
 - 2.1.9. Selected works of ECU Graduates.
- 2.2. Acquisition of ECU student works will be acquired only from graduating exhibitions. There is no obligation to acquire artworks from any particular student or graduating exhibition.
- 2.3. Within the framework of each collecting category the major criteria for acquisition of an artwork is first and foremost that of excellence. Additional criteria will be taken into consideration: relevance to the educational programme, the overall balance of the collection, historical or cultural significance.

3. Acquisitions for the ECU Art Collection

3.1. Donations, Gifts, Purchase, Commissions and Sponsorship

- 3.1.1. Artworks may be acquired for the ECU Art Collection by purchase, commission, bequest, donation, and gifts under the Cultural Gifts Programme of the Department of Communications Information Technology and the Arts.
- 3.1.2. Priority is given to the acquisition of important artworks by Australian and international artists within the focus collection categories. Acquisitions will consolidate and develop strengths within each collecting category.
- 3.1.3. The Art Curator may seek the assistance, advice and endorsement of external consultants as appropriate.
- 3.1.4. These consultants will be professional with recognised and established experience in purchasing, collection development and curatorial experience within their relevant field. One of the two consultants may be a member of the lecturing staff of ECU who has a demonstrable knowledge and interest in the particular field. Consultants will be reviewed as necessary.
- 3.1.5. The Art Curator may nominate up to two consultants for acquisitions of art works across and/or for each of the collection categories (See XX):
- 3.1.6. The Art Curator has the right to reserve works at a gallery exhibition and to proceed for their formal acquisitions under this Policy
- 3.1.7. Only artworks in good condition and that do not require extensive conservation, will be accepted into the Art Collection. Acceptance may be considered if funding for any necessary treatment is also assisted by the donor/vendor. A conservation report must accompany any artworks, which have undergone conservation treatment.
- 3.1.8. Plans for commissioning public art for placement within ECU environs or as an integral part of new buildings must include consultation with the Art Curator, to assess suitability for inclusion in the ECU Art Collection.
- 3.1.9. Purchases or acceptance of gifts and or donations will be made within the scope of these Guidelines and after annual acquisition priorities and budgets are determined.

3.2. Approval of Acquisitions for the ECU Art Collection

- 3.2.1. Acquisition priorities will be proposed each year by the Art Curator and agreed with the Executive Dean, School of Arts and Humanities.
- 3.2.2. All acquisitions for the ECU Art Collection are to be approved by the Executive Dean, Arts & Humanities, with the endorsement of the Manager Campus Operations and Support Services on the written recommendation of the Art Curator. The Curator may include advice and recommendations from external consultants as and if appropriate.
- 3.2.3. The Art Curator will put forward in writing the business case for purchase or acceptance in to the ECU Art Collection, citing any evidence (including appraisal, reviews,

testimonials and evaluations) that supports its significance, importance, value, and relevance to, and alignment with, the ECU Art Collection and the agreed priorities.

- 3.2.4. Provisional financial approval from the Art Collection fund manager (F&S/FBSC) must also be demonstrated.
- 3.2.5. Copies of Approved Memo's and supporting documentation are to be collected and retained in the Art Collection Management System ("EMu").
- 3.2.6. The University will only acquire works of art for the ECU Art Collection provided that provenance and clear legal title can be confirmed.
- 3.2.7. Artworks which have been acquired by a business unit within ECU (e.g. School or Centre) without formal approval will not be considered part of the ECU Art Collection (hence the insurance, valuation, security, conservation, framing, maintenance, freight, relocation and installation of such works are not the responsibility of the ECU Art Collection or it's Curatorial staff).

4. Indigenous Artwork Acquisitions

- 4.1. In relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artworks, the University will only collect works intended for public display or approved for display in consultation with appropriate Indigenous representatives and communities. It is recognised though that these categories of 'sacred and restricted' are fluid and every effort will be made to respond to any cultural sensitivities as required.

4.2. Repatriation

- 4.2.1. ECU supports originating communities' rights to "maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression", and recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be empowered to protect, preserve and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expression in relation to cultural objects in our custodial care.
- 4.2.2. In considering all matters relating to culturally significant items, we are guided by the general principle that the rights of the Indigenous peoples are of primary concern and recognise the importance of the relationship between all First Nations peoples and their cultural heritage, irrespective of current ownership or location.
- 4.2.3. Where a need for repatriation of significant objects is identified, the University will work on a case-by-case basis, guided by the relevant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander governance or custodial group, to facilitate the return of Ancestral remains and significant objects in a proper and dignified manner.

5. Accountabilities

- 5.1. The Art Curator is responsible for the strategic and operational management of the ECU Art Collection. Any issues pertaining to the ECU Art Collection, or to any individual piece in the collection, and its use shall be directed to the Curator.
- 5.2. Digital and Campus Services (through the Manager, Campus Operations and Resources) have delegated financial responsibility for the ECU Art Collection on behalf of Edith Cowan University.
- 5.3. Executive Dean, School of Arts & Humanities (Policy Owner) has overall responsibility for the content of this policy and its operation in ECU.
- 5.4. Finance and Business Services Centre has responsibility for oversight of controls to ensure adequate financial, asset management and audit requirements are met. The Centre will also provide support of the EMu Art Collection Management System (ECU Business Support).

6. Relevant policies and procedures

- ECU Art Collection – Policy
- ECU Art Collection – Loan Guidelines
- ECU Art Collection – Access, Handling, Storage and Conservation Guidelines
- ECU Art Collection - Asset Management Guidelines.