

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the acquisition and de-acquisition of all art works be it through purchase, bequest, gift or donation, to the permanent collection of the Horsham Regional Art Gallery. This includes gifts made under the Cultural Gifts Program (CGP). The CGP is a national program that offers tax incentives to encourage people to donate cultural items to public art galleries, museums, libraries and archives in Australia.

2. INTRODUCTION

This policy ensures the Horsham Regional Art Gallery meets industry standards and ensures a transparent process for management of the Horsham Regional Art Gallery Collection. This policy is to be used in conjunction with the Horsham Regional Art Gallery Collection Procedure.

3. SCOPE

This policy guides how artworks enter and leave the Horsham Regional Art Gallery Collection and guides the work of the Horsham Regional Art Gallery Acquisition Committee and the Council officers that manage the Horsham Regional Art Gallery.

4. PRINCIPLES

4.1 Policy Aims

- 4.1.1** To describe the significance and cultural material contained in the Collection.
- 4.1.2** To establish the direction and focus for acquiring items for the permanent collection of Horsham Regional Art Gallery.
- 4.1.3** To meet the vision and objectives of the Gallery:
 - Increase appreciation and enjoyment of the visual arts in the Wimmera region.
 - Enhance the permanent collection – making it the regions finest.
 - Strengthen attendance and audience engagement by increasing understanding of our diverse cultural heritage and contemporary art.

4.2 Collecting Criteria

- 4.2.1** Established Australian artists and artists who have had a significant impact on the development of Australian cultural material.
- 4.2.2** Each acquisition should have significant connection to complement, complete or extend existing collections.
- 4.2.3** Established artists from this region.
- 4.2.4** Works of significance to our region.
- 4.2.5** Photographic technical equipment of relevance to the development of Australian photography and significant artists represented in the collection.

4.3 General Collecting Principles

- 4.3.1** Collection shall be carried out in the public interest.
- 4.3.2** Challenging or difficult art should not be avoided.
- 4.3.3** All reasonable precautions will be taken to avoid acquiring works that are offered as gains through illicit trade in compliance with the U.N.E.S.C.O Cultural Convention of 1970.
- 4.3.4** The gallery should be able to obtain clear and valid ownership title to all works it accepts into the collection.

- 4.3.5** The gallery will avoid accepting works that bear inappropriate or unacceptable restrictions to their use, but will honour such restrictions if it does accept such works.
- 4.3.6** The Gallery will follow the guidelines established by the ICOM Code of Professional Ethics, regarding acquisition and disposal of the collection.
- 4.3.7** The proposed work will be in a condition for research and display.

4.4 Horsham Regional Art Gallery Collection

The Horsham Regional Art Gallery was formed through the development of the communities desire to have a visual arts facility within our city. Its first acquisitions were made up of artistic items in the community's possession. In 1976 after a period of external engagement with the larger visual arts sector, the Horsham Regional Art Gallery decided to focus its collection on Australian photography. An emergent medium at the time, it was also a cost effective way of collecting Australian art practice by leading artists and photographers and was relatively simple to store. This was reinforced by a statewide directive for the regional art galleries to concentrate on a single collection practice allowing the state funded galleries to support all art practice of Victoria.

In 1976 we acquired Max Dupain's The Meat Queue, already an iconic image of the great depression by a master Australian photographer. At the same time we purchased the 1975 work Vale Street by emerging female photographer Carol Jerrams. A piercing document of the counter culture of the day that has also grown to hold iconic position in Australian photographic practice. With these two acquisitions we were looking to acquire the best recognised practice we could afford and a work by an emerging photographer dissecting our current social environment. It is looking back, looking forward and taking risks that informs our collecting today. It is our collection of Australian photographic practice from its inception in Australia to today that is unique to our collection and solidifies the unique experience offered by our institution.

In 1986 we received our first gift from Mack Jost. The Mack Jost Gift of his collection to the City of Horsham transformed our institution and professionalism of its development by Council. Over the course of his lifetime and on his death Mack Jost donated 324 works of Australian painting, printmaking and drawing to the collection. Consisting mainly of works from his artistic circle, the Mack Jost Collection also holds works by leading Australian artists which are considered to be secondary examples of celebrated artists' outputs. Although the Mack Jost Collection does not illustrate a complete history of Australian art practice it nonetheless gives our community access to high quality artworks by leading artists. We honour Mack's gift by continuing to collect paintings and works on paper selectively that build on the concerns of the artists held within this collection.

The priority of the Horsham Regional Art Gallery Collection is to continue to build a nationally significant collection of Australian photographic practice. Our collection does acknowledge technological shifts in this field, to include a lens based practice. We also honour the work and legacy of those who have built the collection and continue to collect artworks that enhance those which we are already custodians of; works that look back but also pierce the society we live in today.

4.5 Guidelines

4.5.1 Australian Photography

Statement – Our Collection of Australian Photography consists of works by early photographers, key 20th century photographers with a focus on the emergence of photography as an art practice post 1970. It includes a significant holding of indigenous photographers and artists who consistently use the medium of photography in their practice.

As artistic practice is evolving HRAG considers photography to encompass a broad definition of photography, a lens based practice, with a focus on the printed image. This component of our Collection is of national significance due to its breadth, depth and location within a regional environment. It is our greatest strength, offers a unique visitor experience and is the primary focus of developing the collection.

Direction - Through industry engagement and the presentation of photographers practicing today, within the HRAG Exhibition Program we will continue to purchase outstanding work that illustrates technical engagement, process and subjects that build on our holdings that document the development of Australian society.

Where possible the Gallery should acquire vintage historical photographs, rather than contemporary reprints. Photographs printed at a later date under the supervision of the artist are acceptable. With a focus on printed material we will consider all work and outputs that are embedded within a lens based practice. The development of the Australian Photography Collection is the primary focus of activity for our collecting.

4.5.2 Mack Jost Collection

Statement - The collection includes work by many significant Australian artists from the colonial period to 1994 and was accepted under the conditions that a significant component of this collection is permanently on exhibit in the gallery. The Mack Jost Bequest provides for the continuation of the Mack Jost Collection.

Reflecting the taste of only one person, this collection predominately consists of domestic scale works on paper and paintings. This collection represents some major art movements in Australia.

Direction - To complement or extend the existing thematic threads of the Mack Jost Collection with works by significant contemporary/established Australian artists that reflect the materiality and scale of works held within this collection.

4.5.3 The Wimmera and its artists

Statement - The collection predominately includes paintings, works on paper and photography. The thematic threads of the collection reflect the people and landscape of the Wimmera and other regional communities. It is comprised of works by artists from the Wimmera region and work by artists who have used this region as a point of inspiration.

Direction - HRAG will continue to work with, and display the work of our regions artists, and those inspired by our region through the HRAG Exhibition Program and to purchase outstanding works by these artists that build on our collection of their peers.

4.5.4 General Collection

Statement – Throughout our history artworks have entered the Collection which stand outside the three key areas of collection outlined above. These works provide a context and appreciation of the totality of Australian art practice. A key component of this part of the Collection is the Mann Collection of Wildlife Art. This collection, the result of the collection of a single family, surveys this stream of art activity during the period of their collecting.

Direction - With our limited budget for the development of the HRAG Collection, new acquisitions into this part of the Collection should be sought through gift or bequest. Australian paintings, drawings,

prints and objects should take a high priority and should represent the forefront of practice at their time of production. (Please see associated Procedure for details)

4.6 De-accessioning Criteria

Any object held by the Gallery and/or listed in gallery records may be de-accessioned if it:

- does not comply with the collecting areas specified in the Acquisition Policy.
- is of no artistic, historical or archival value.
- is damaged beyond repair.
- is stolen or otherwise missing beyond reasonable hope of recovery. In this case, all reasonable efforts to recover the work shall have been undertaken. E.g. police informed, searches made, advertisements placed, etc. where applicable.

4.7 Guidelines for proposing to De-accession

De-accessioning takes place only after due and proper consideration.

De-accessioning will not be seen to adversely affect the Gallery's ability to attract future donations of art works or financial assistance towards the purchase of art works.

De-accessioning is not undertaken as a means of augmenting Gallery operating costs.

Gifts made under the Cultural Gifts Program will not be returned to the donor as the donor has already received the benefit of a tax deduction for the gift.

4.8 Guidelines for the disposal of a De-accessioned object

The method of disposal shall be approved by the Horsham Regional Art Gallery Trust and shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act.

Any funds received from the sale of a de-accessioned object shall be used for the purpose of acquiring works of art for the Gallery collection.

In the case of a donated object, any funds received from the sale shall be used to purchase a work(s) that will be credited to the donor of the de-accessioned object.

No member of the Gallery staff, Horsham Regional Art Gallery Trust or Horsham Rural City Council shall be eligible to purchase or otherwise obtain a de-accessioned object.

5. COMMUNICATION

This policy will be presented to Horsham Regional Art Gallery Staff, members of the Horsham Regional Art Gallery Acquisition Committee, and members of the Horsham Regional Art Gallery Trust. It will be available on HRCC's internet site.

6. RESPONSIBILITY

Policy Owner: Art Gallery Director

This Policy will be reviewed every 4 years or earlier as required by changed circumstances including changes to legislation and plans, strategies or policies of HRCC.

7. DEFINITIONS

Definition	Meaning
Accession	the act of placing an artwork within the collection.
Acquisition	a new artwork to be placed within the collection
Deaccession	the act removing an artwork from the collection
De-acquisition	an artwork to be removed from the collection
Cultural Gift	a tax deductible gift of artworks through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program (CGP).
The Cultural Gifts Program	Is a national program that offers tax incentives to encourage people to donate cultural items to public art galleries, museums, libraries and archives in Australia

8. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Document	Location
Horsham Regional Art Gallery Collection Procedure	Intranet

9. DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version Number	Approval Date	Approval By	Amendment	Review Date
01	2 July 2018	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Policy 	2 July 2022
02	28 March 2022	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated policy removing reference to HRAG Advisory Committee 	28 March 2026
03	March 2023	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New logo 	28 March 2026
04	5 June 2024	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor adjustment in accordance with Cultural Gift Program Guidelines 	05 June 2028

It is recognised that from time-to-time circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to Council and Administrative Policies. Where an update does not materially alter a Policy, such a change may be made administratively, without the need for formal adoption by EMT or Council. Examples include a change to the name of a Council Department/Position Title, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government Department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, all changes will be noted in the document control section and version number updated.