



An Australian Government Initiative

ARTBANK RELOCATING TO LARGE-SCALE NEW PREMISES IN COLLINGWOOD

Embargoed until Wednesday, 29 March 2017

After more than a decade operating out of a showroom and office in Armadale, Artbank will this year take up residence in a large-scale new, purpose-designed warehouse space in Down St, Collingwood.

A key driver in the Australian contemporary visual art sector, Artbank has been supporting artists for over 37 years through the acquisition of more than 10,000 artworks made publicly available through an innovative art-leasing initiative.

In a move that reflects the organisation's increasing relevance and audience reach, Artbank's new inner-city facilities will include a cultural event space for exhibitions, talks, community events and public programs.

"The launch of Artbank's new Melbourne operation signifies a critical moment in the history of the organisation," said Artbank Director Tony Stephens.

"The expansion will provide increased capacity to service new and existing clients in the region, allowing us to support more artists and in doing so increase the accessibility of Australian visual arts for more Australians. The new space will also allow much greater public interface, so we can better engage with artists and the broader public on Australian contemporary art".

Artbank was established in 1980 as a federal government program to provide direct support to Australian contemporary artists through the acquisition of their work. Today, Artbank holds one of the largest and most significant collections of Australian art in the world, and operates a successful, national self-funded art-rental program.

"Artbank is in a unique position to not only connect audiences through our leasing program, but to also reimagine how a collection held on behalf of the Australian public can be an inclusive part of mainstream society, a truly democratic collection," said Artbank Director, Tony Stephens.

The move to the expanded new Melbourne premises is the latest in a period of significant change for Artbank, with the launch of new premises in Sydney's Waterloo in 2014, accompanied by a popular program of exhibitions, fellowships, partnerships and events.

“Artbank is more than an art-rental program,” said Tony Stephens. “It works to support artists and the sector more broadly by engaging diverse audiences who may have no existing alignment or interest with the arts.”

“The new Collingwood facility will be bold, collaborative and open. A centre for the contemporary arts and the diverse community who support it,” he said.

Facts:

- Artbank’s new Melbourne facility will be designed by award-winning Fitzroy architecture studio Edition Office (formerly Room 11 Melbourne), led by Aaron Roberts and Kim Bridgland.
- Construction is expected to be complete by late 2017, with a full program of launch events and celebrations to follow.
- The Artbank collection is one of the largest and fastest growing collections of Australian art in the world, with over 10,000 artworks and 3500 artists represented in the collection. Artbank’s support for artists is often applied early in their careers, with future acquisitions being made at regular intervals to form an extensive and constantly evolving collection of Australian contemporary art.
- Fifty percent of the collection is out on loan at any one time. Artbank has consequently been a self-funding government program for over twenty years and is the only cultural institution in Australia that works through a cultural business model that is sustainable.
- Artbank’s clients are spread across all sectors of the community and equate to approximately 55% corporate, 30% government and 15% private. All revenue raised through the leasing program is reinvested into business activities that directly support the realisation of the organisation’s objectives.
- Approximately 30% of Artbank’s clients are in Melbourne. The relocation of the Melbourne operation will increase customer service capacity and support engagement with the southern states of Australia.

FOR FURTHER MEDIA INFORMATION:

Katrina Hall

Publicity/Communications

0421153046 or kathall@ozemail.com.au