

OFFICIAL



Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

OFFICE FOR THE ARTS / CREATIVE INDUSTRIES / ARTBANK

Artbank Collection Acquisition Policy

November 2024

OFFICIAL

Table of Contents

Artbank Collection Acquisition Policy	3
Purpose	3
Collection Dynamics	3
Accountable Authority	3
Objectives	3
Criteria for Acquisition	3
1. Australian Artist	4
2. Significance	4
3. Suitability to Collection	4
Commonwealth Procurement Rules	4
Value for Money	4
Impartiality	5
Copyright	5
Methods of Acquisition	5
Purchasing Artworks	5
Donations	5
Conflict of Interest	5
Document Control	6

Artbank Collection Acquisition Policy

Artbank is an Australian Government initiative within the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts. Established in 1980, Artbank is an arts support program for Australian contemporary artists that encourages engagement with and appreciation of Australian contemporary art by the broader community. With a collection of over 11,000 artworks in a variety of artistic modes, media and styles, Artbank provides direct support to living Australian artists through the acquisition of their work; and promotes the value of Australian contemporary art by making this work available through an art leasing scheme.

Purpose

The Artbank Collection Acquisition Policy presents the rationale for the acquisition of artwork for the Artbank Collection and establishes the intellectual and administrative principles that support the collection of art by Artbank.

Collection Dynamics

Artbank is a lending collection and collected works are there for a purpose that requires broad public access. Although all due care and collection management is exercised, the leasing scheme places more pressure on holdings than a museum or gallery setting.

Accountable Authority

The authority to acquire artwork for the Artbank Collection sits with the Secretary of the Department of Communications and the Arts or their authorised delegate.

Objectives

Artbank has two primary objectives:

- To encourage the development of Australian contemporary art through the acquisition of the work of living Australian artists; and
- To promote the value of Australian contemporary art to the broader community by making this art accessible through an art leasing scheme.

The Artbank Collection Acquisition Policy supports these objectives by ensuring Artbank applies rigorous, ethical and accountable standards in the consideration, assessment and negotiation of acquisitions; and Artbank acquires works of art that fit within Artbank's collecting priority areas and are considered and approved in accordance with established delegated authority.

Criteria for Acquisition

Artbank's future collecting priorities are guided by collection plans that ensure the collection continues to evolve, remain contemporary and deliver on its objectives and to reflect the diversity of Australia.

Artbank applies three eligibility criteria before it will consider acquisition of art works for the Artbank Collection.

1. Australian Artist

The artwork is produced by a living Australian artist,

- A. To be classified as an Australian artist, the artist must be either born in Australia; an Australian citizen; in Australia as an approved temporary resident for a minimum of two years, and/or a permanent resident of Australia;
- B. The artist may be living in Australia or overseas as long as at least one of the above stated criteria are demonstrable; and
- C. Where the artwork is produced by an artist collective or collaboration, no less than fifty percent of the contributors must meet criterion A.

2. Significance

The artwork has aesthetic, historic, cultural, social and/or national significance that relate to contemporary Australia. Each work should be recognised for its excellence and be an exemplary example of its kind and/or represent outstanding artistic achievement within the artist's practice.

3. Suitability to Collection

The artworks must be appropriate for potential rental through the art leasing scheme, including:

- Being appropriate for display in public spaces; and
- Being in intrinsically sound condition and reasonably resistant to deterioration in the routine operations of Artbank including display, packing and transportation.

For information on deaccessioning Artbank artwork see the [Artbank Collection Deaccession Policy](#).

Commonwealth Procurement Rules

Artbank is committed to complying with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules to ensure that acquisitions of artworks are made in compliance with their requirements – especially in relation to the obligations under Division 1 of the Rules, such as ensuring value for money and impartiality.

Value for Money

Value for money is considered at all stages of the acquisition process in relation to artworks under assessment for inclusion in the Artbank collection. The following points are discussed and minutes are recorded in the curatorial team meetings and the All Staff acquisition proposal meetings:

- **Fit for Purpose: Rentability** - capacity to produce income, to be leased by Artbank clients.
- **Quality:** Referring to current market trends, supply and demand and in-comparison to like work on the market (based on art market forces: different career stages; endorsement from certain art institutions; level of education; international/national/state reputation and representation; cost of materials and scale)
- **Total cost of ownership:** The artwork is suitable for the wear and tear of a leasing program. Factors may include costs of storage, cost of maintenance (sturdy, frameable, lightfast).
- **Non-financial factors:** As an artist support program Artbank must consider different forms of non-financial factors. For example: is the style, type and content suitable for display, how will this acquisition support the artist, etc?

Impartiality

Artbank acquires artworks predominantly by limited tender. This is consistent with general public gallery practice, and is contemplated by a specific exemption for the procurement of works of art under Commonwealth Procurement Rule 10.3(d) (i).

Artbank accepts unsolicited submissions from artists and gallerists and will periodically run 'Artbank Unpacked' information sessions across Australia to increase awareness of its activities amongst the visual arts community. Links for represented and unrepresented artists who would like to be considered for potential acquisition to Artbank are included on Artbank's website: <https://www.artbank.gov.au/artist-support> .

Copyright

Artbank respects the moral rights of the creators of works acquired for the collection by ensuring the integrity of use and proper attribution of those works. The Artbank Acquisition Agreement defines the terms of copyright licence granted to Artbank for all works acquired for the collection.

Methods of Acquisition

The Artbank collection can be acquired through purchase and donation.

Purchasing Artworks

Artworks are primarily purchased by Artbank on the primary market from Australian artists or their appointed agents (including galleries and dealers).

Artworks will be purchased at a fair market price. In the case of an artist not having established a market price for their works, the price will be agreed upon between the seller and Artbank prior to acquisition.

Artbank is committed to the responsible acquisition of all works of art, with the principles that all collecting be done according to the highest standards of ethical and professional practice, and that it complies with both Australian legislation and Artbank's acquisition policies and plans. This includes Artbank researching the provenance of a work of art prior to acquisition. Artbank abides by the [Indigenous Australian art charter of principles for publicly funded collecting institutions](#).

Donations

Acceptance of works proposed for donation is conditional upon meeting the same criteria as purchases. Artbank may accept donations by:

- Transfer from a Commonwealth, State or Institutional collection;
- A gift or bequest by an artist or collector; and/or
- Donation under the Taxation Incentives for the Arts scheme (Cultural Gifts Program).

Conflict of Interest

Artbank will not acquire works by or from current employees or members of their families.

Artbank employees will not accept any gift, hospitality, or any form of reward from a dealer, auctioneer, or other person as an inducement to purchase or dispose of collection items, or to take or refrain from taking official action.

Artbank employees will not compete with Artbank either in the acquisition of works or in any personal collecting activity.

Document Control

Refer to the following table for the approver and latest version of this document.

Version	Release date	Approver	Reason for update
1.0	Dec 2024	Caroline Fulton	Initial release of document.
2.0	Nov 2024		Reference to CPR's included.