

Banyule Art Collection Policy

2017 - 2022



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1. Purpose

The Banyule Art Collection Policy serves as a guide for staff and a source of information for the public. It describes the management of the City of Banyule Art Collection; its growth through new acquisitions, conservation, research, interpretation and display.

2. Introduction

The Banyule Art Collection was formed following local government amalgamations in 1994 through the combination of the Art Collections of the Shire of Diamond Valley and the City of Heidelberg.

The Banyule Art Collection:

- Comprises of over 500 art works in a variety of media including painting, sculpture, textiles, ceramics, glass, works on paper, jewellery and metal works.
- Surveys contemporary Australian artists and art movements from 1974 to the present.
- Maintains and develops its status as a contemporary collection through a strategic, ongoing program of acquisition and presentation.

The Art Collection Policy supports the Goals and objectives of the 2017 -2021 Arts and Culture Strategic Plan and supports the delivery of all intended outcomes.

3. Definition

For the purposes of the collection, contemporary art is defined as visual art created within the preceding ten-year period.

4. Vision

To develop and maintain a visual art collection of national significance for the Banyule Community that stimulates discussion and debate about current, social and cultural issues.

5. Objectives

- 5.1** To collect and selectively commission works of art which foster an understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts among the Banyule community and members of the general public.
- 5.2** To facilitate access to the collection via interpretative activities such as exhibitions, which further the education and understanding of the Banyule Art Collection and contemporary art by the local community.
- 5.3** To enrich the existing collection by maintaining its growth and development through an ongoing program of acquisitions.
- 5.4** To enhance public spaces within the Banyule municipality and develop community wellbeing through the arts.

- 5.4** To engage with the widest possible audience within the City of Banyule and beyond through the visual arts.
- 5.6** To develop, manage, conserve and display the collection to the highest museum standards possible for the benefit of the present and future Banyule community.

6. Management of the Collection

The Banyule Art Collection is to be administered by Banyule's Art Curator who is responsible for the documentation (including maintenance of individual artists' files), exhibition, care and preservation of the collection to museum best practice. The Curator is responsible for overseeing handling of the collection which must be done by suitably trained staff.

- 6.1** The Art Collection Working Group is the community advocate for the art collection. The Art Collection Working Group is a community representative body that makes recommendations to the Banyule Arts and Culture Advisory Committee on art acquisitions and projects related to the art collection.
- 6.2** The collection is insured separately under Banyule City Council's special risk insurance policy.
- 6.3** At any time part of the collection is periodically rested in a purpose built storage facility.
- 6.4** Banyule City Council will integrate the development of the collection with the management of resources for its care and preservation.
- 6.5** The display, reproduction, duplication or other utilisation of items from the collection shall not contravene any laws including those governing copyright, intellectual property or moral rights, nor shall the use conflict with any commitments made by the Council in agreements with artists or donors.

7. Acquisitions

Banyule City Council will collect contemporary and innovative two-dimensional and three-dimensional works from emerging, mid-career and established Australian artists or artists who have worked in Australia.

7.1 Acquisition Guidelines

The following criteria will guide acquisitions for the collection:

Preference will be given to works:

- 7.1.1** That contribute to the 'most recent ideas and theories' in contemporary art practice.
- 7.1.2** That consolidate and enrich the existing collection as a whole or which expand the range of representation of art forms or artists within the collection.
- 7.1.3** Only original works will be collected or editions where these are limited, signed and numbered by the artist.
- 7.1.4** Only works of quality and innovation including emerging and innovative art forms will be considered.

7.1.5 Acquisitions will be determined on the basis of budget, public safety, display, storage and transport imperatives and interpretative possibilities at the time of acquisition.

7.1.6 Acquisitions will be made in consideration of relevant laws, policies and guidelines.

Methods of acquisition of art works in the Banyule Art Collection may include:

- Purchase or commission through Council acquisition funds.
- Donation in perpetuity or through the Commonwealth Cultural Gifts Program. Any offer of donation of works to the collection will be carefully considered in regard to the appropriateness of the work to the collection, the degree to which it meets the acquisition guidelines, its condition and any stipulation by the donor.
- Banyule City Council will not accept donations or purchase works of art from its current full-time, part-time or casual staff, Council members or members of the Banyule Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee, whether or not they are the author of the work.

7.2 Acquisition Process

7.2.1 The Banyule City Council Art Curator will monitor opportunities to develop the collection in accordance with the acquisition policy and may seek advice from industry professionals.

7.2.2 Proposals for acquisition will be developed by the Art Collection Curator then presented to the Art Collection Working Group for consideration.

7.2.3 The Art Curator will then submit a report outlining recommendations including costings to the Banyule Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee for consideration and approval.

7.2.4 Based upon the advice of the Curator in conjunction with the Working Group and recommendations of the Banyule Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee, Council will make the final decision on acquisitions.

7.2.5 The purchasing process will be undertaken by the Curator and appropriate Council officers in accordance with Council purchasing policies and procedures as well as best practise industry standards.

8. De-Accessioning

De-accessioning, or disposal, of artworks from the Banyule Art Collection may take place as part of responsible collection management in compliance with the following guidelines.

8.1 De-Accessioning Guidelines

The following criteria will guide de-accessioning objects from the collection:

8.1.1 Banyule City Council will observe any legal conditions pertaining to its right of disposal.

8.1.2 Banyule City Council will dispose of a work in a manner it considers most beneficial to the Collection and to the future of the work. This may include returning it to the artist or donor (or offered to his/her

family if the artist or donor is deceased), or by sale, gift or destruction. Only public or non-profit institutions may receive the gift of a de-accessioned work.

- 8.1.3** De-accessioning will be proposed by the Curator should a work be damaged beyond repair or the conservation and storage costs are beyond the means of Banyule City Council. De-accessioning may also be considered, if a work no longer strengthens the cultural vitality of the collection.
- 8.1.4** Destruction of a work will be considered only if the object is dangerous or has for some reason deteriorated beyond repair.
- 8.1.5** Should a de-accessioned artwork be sold, the proceeds will be used to further develop the collection through acquiring new work or for use in the care and management of the collection

8.2 De-Accessioning Process

If artworks meet the above criteria and need to be de-accessioned the following process will be followed process will be adhered to:

- 8.2.1** The Curator will make recommendations for de-accessioning in a written report. If needed, professional advice will be sought to assist with the assessment.
- 8.2.2** The report will be submitted to the Art Collection Working Group and Banyule Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee and a decision will be made as to the most appropriate method of disposal of the object.
- 8.2.3** Full records of any object de-accessioned, and the process whereby the decision to dispose was made, will be kept.
- 8.2.4** The de-accessioned object will be retained for a period of twelve months to allow for reconsideration and reassessment. At the conclusion of the 12-month period, the proposal will be reviewed by the Art Collection Working Group and Banyule Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee prior to disposal.

9. Loans

Banyule City Council undertakes to make its collection accessible to a wide range of local and extended community groups. Council will make available works from the collection for loan to public organisations and institutions. Each application will be assessed individually and decisions will be based on conditions ensuring the safety, security and appropriate display of the item(s) on loan.

Outward Loan Guidelines

Loans will proceed by agreement between Banyule City Council (the Lender) and the borrowing organisation (the Borrower) under the following conditions:

- 9.1** The Borrower agrees to exercise care in the handling, storage and display of loaned material and meet the conditions in the Loan Agreement.
- 9.2** Loans will remain in the possession of the borrower until returned to the City of Banyule.
- 9.3** The borrower must arrange appropriate insurance and a copy of the insurance policy must be submitted with the loan application.

- 9.4** The maximum loan period is 12 months. Applications for extensions of this period must be made prior to the loan expiry date.

Inward Loan Guidelines

- 9.5** Banyule City Council may borrow material from other collections and/or individuals for exhibition and display to complement works held in the collection.
- 9.6** Borrowed material shall only be accepted for specific exhibitions or research and for fixed periods of time.
- 9.7** Adequate insurance provisions must be arranged and a copy of the insurance policy provided to the Lender.
- 9.8** Banyule City Council will exercise the same care with respect to borrowed material as it does for its own collection.
- 9.9** Banyule City Council will provide adequate storage and display conditions for borrowed items for the term of the loan.

10. Public Access

Banyule City Council will facilitate public access to the collection by holding temporary exhibitions in a variety of venues and by providing avenues for the interpretation, discussion and enjoyment of the visual arts.

Public Access Guidelines

The Curator of the Banyule Art Collection will:

- 10.1** Produce an annual program of exhibitions, which includes interpretative texts, education and information programs related to the collection.
- 10.2** Facilitate access to the collection via interpretative activities, which further the education and understanding of contemporary art by the local community.
- 10.3** Ensure that a significant number of works from the collection are on public display at any one time.
- 10.4** Banyule City Council will not display an object, if in the opinion of the Curator or other relevant professional, the condition of that object would be seriously impaired or may pose damage to public safety.

11. Review Date

This policy should be subject to review in May 2021