

## ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### Exhibition Policy

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#### 1. Purpose of this Policy

This policy informs the development of the exhibition program at the Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA) and is informed by AGSA's strategic goals as outlined in the Strategic Plan 2019-2022.

As also outlined in the Strategic Plan, AGSA contributes positively to cultural cohesion, social wellbeing, creativity, engaged citizenship and economic life in South Australia and this achieved largely through the artistic program.

Exhibitions are presented at AGSA, at partner venues (primarily in the case of Tarnanthi: Festival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art and the Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art) in Adelaide, regional South Australia, and at interstate and international venues.

#### 2. Roles and Responsibilities

The Art Gallery Board is responsible for approving this policy while the Director and Senior Management Group are responsible for overseeing its implementation.

#### 3. Principles

The following principles underpin AGSA's approach to its exhibition program:

- a) AGSA vision: The exhibition program is informed by our vision to be the inspirational leader for visual arts in South Australia and contribute powerfully to culture in Australia and beyond.
- b) Accessibility and audience development: The exhibition program is accessible to a diverse audience, is inclusive of both specialist and general audiences and includes free and ticketed exhibitions. Access to existing and new and diverse audiences is enhanced through innovative display methodologies, artist-lead and audience-focussed curating, relevant public programs, publications that extend the life and impact of the exhibition, new research, and creative partnerships, nationally relevant school curriculum connections, online platforms including social media, and bold marketing campaigns.

- c) Research, scholarship and interpretation: Exhibitions aim to meet the highest standards of curatorial scholarship, introduce new research and present innovative and engaging approaches to interpretation and display.
- d) Collection amplification: Exhibitions aim to highlight, contextualise, interrogate or enable greater access to works from AGSA's collection. They can also provide an opportunity for collection development, in accordance with AGSA's Acquisition Policy. To quote Tate, 'Exhibitions are emphatic acts of speech within an ongoing conversation constructed by collection and displays'.
- e) Financial Management: The financial feasibility of exhibitions must be fully interrogated prior to commencement. This includes consideration of:
  - projected financial outcomes
  - balancing the need for ticket revenue with audience engagement and artist exposure
  - ensuring adequate funding and resources are provided
  - rigorous assessment of potential audience
- f) Resources: The exhibition program is planned and implemented with regard for:
  - human, material and environmental resource management and sustainability
  - existing and future priorities and commitments
  - strategic management of risks
- g) Reconciliation: as stated in the Reconciliation Action Plan, AGSA recognises the importance of art and specifically exhibitions in fostering the cultural understanding and respect that are vital to reconciliation across the broader community. We understand that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art is not separate from the national story, but an essential part of it. AGSA is committed to the ethical and culturally-sensitive research and presentation throughout the exhibition-making process.
- h) Partnerships: The exhibition program supports the development, expansion and strengthening of important partnerships and alliances with key national and international galleries, museums, festivals and touring organisations. The exhibition program is aligned with South Australia's state goals and priorities.

#### **4. Exhibition Models**

AGSA implements a number of exhibition models in its programming. These include, but are not limited to:

- a) Ticketed exhibitions with broad appeal that develop AGSA's profile, supports the promotion of the city and positions the state of South Australia as a major cultural destination.
- b) Biennial and recurring exhibitions dedicated to contemporary Australian art, such as the Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, the Ramsay Art Prize and Tarnanthi.

- c) Monographic, survey or thematic exhibitions that recognise the contribution of individual artists, collectives or groups of artists, including South Australian artists. These may be ticketed or non-ticketed offerings.
- d) Exhibitions that provide a platform for new work, mobilise responses to the collection and/or encourage conversations with festivals, major events, partners and other art forms.
- e) Exhibitions developed by AGSA or other galleries, museums or organisations that feature works borrowed from other galleries, museums or private collections to advance new ideas and build new audiences.
- f) Touring exhibitions from interstate or international organisations.
- g) Collection-based exhibitions that tour to regional South Australia, interstate or internationally.

## **5. Decision-making Process**

- a) Exhibition proposals are reviewed and assessed by the Senior Management Group and approved by the Director for inclusion in the exhibition program.
- b) Where a major ticketed exhibition is included in the exhibition program, attendance is the key consideration and key stakeholders may need to be consulted at an early stage of the planning process.
- c) The Director, Deputy Director and Assistant Director, in consultation with financial officers, will develop a budget for all exhibitions. For exhibitions with a budget over \$400,000 a risk assessment will also be completed. Any exhibition with over \$1 million expenditure must be approved by the Art Gallery Board and any supporting contractual documentation must be referred to the Crown Solicitor for advice.

## **6. Related Documents**

AGSA Strategic Plan 2019-2022  
 Due Diligence and Provenance Policy  
 Acquisition Policy  
 Loans Policy  
 Reconciliation Action Plan  
 Code of Ethics

## **7. Review Process**

This policy will be reviewed after its first year of operation and then on a five-yearly basis. This policy will also be amended where necessary to reflect the needs of AGSA and will be reviewed following the development of each new Strategic Plan.

Policy approved by Art Gallery Board (to be reviewed in October 2020)	23 October 2019
Policy reviewed after first year of operation	