

## **DUNEDIN PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

### **PERMANENT ART COLLECTION POLICY 2016**

#### **SCOPE**

##### **1. Collection Scope**

This policy encompasses all the Permanent Art Works displayed throughout the Library network.

##### **2. Collection Purpose**

The purpose of this collection is to mark important events in the Library's history, showcase important local and national artists, provide community identity and pleasing visual connections to extend the Library experience for staff, customers and visitors.

##### **3. History**

The collection is unsolicited and appears to have grown from a series of donations given to the Library from or about the time of the opening of the new City Library in 1982.

##### **4. Description of Collection**

The Collection numbers approximately 170 items (2016) and includes works by prominent New Zealand artists and illustrators such as Colin McCahon, Jeffrey Harris, Ralph Hotere, Robin White, Nigel Brown, Molly McAlister, Annie Baird, Joanna Paul and well known local artists such as Ron Esplin, Eana Jeans, Kathryn Madill, David Elliot, Ivan Hill, Odelle Morshuis, Jane McLeod, Heather Maxwell, John Toomer, Lindsay Crooks and Jan McLean.

##### **5. Housing**

The collection is displayed predominantly in the City Library but all community libraries have some works on display. All works are located in positions which reduce the impact of environmental factors and are affixed by appropriate brackets to ensure that theft is unlikely.

##### **6. Valuation**

The collection was appraised in 2012 by Stephen Higginson of Milford Galleries in Dunedin and valued at \$2,886,070. The collection is expected to be valued every five years and in the period 2011-2016 a further 8 works have been added.

The bulk of the valuation can be attributed to the works by Colin McCahon 'Otago Peninsula', Ralph Hotere 'Window in Spain', Jeffrey Harris 'Jasmine Pathway'.

##### **7. Collection Management**

The collection is managed by a Library staff member (currently the Manager Collections & Access) who liaises with potential donors and negotiates gift terms which are acceptable to both the donor and the Library.

Each work is allocated a running number prefixed by PA when it added to the Permanent Art Collection. This number is applied to all information pertaining to the work over time.

A standard donation form [G:\LIBRARY\Collection\\_Development\Donations\Art\\_Donation\\_Agreement \[MASTER\].doc](G:\LIBRARY\Collection_Development\Donations\Art_Donation_Agreement_[MASTER].doc) is used to ensure that the conditions upon which the donation is made are understood by both parties and serves as a record in perpetuity. A file of historic information related to the works has been compiled from archives records and is added to as new items are donated, conservation work is completed and other relevant information is acquired. Some early donations have little information associated with them. See <G:\LIBRARY\Art\Permanent Art Updated 20161111.xls>

Small gold plaques are commissioned to display details including artist, title, donor, date and location to inform viewers about the works.

## **8. Selection Tools**

Not applicable since the works are not selected by Library staff. However the Internet and specialist gallery/art sites may be used to inform decisions about whether offered works will be accepted.

## **9. Selection Guidelines**

When a work is offered the following criteria are considered before the work is accepted:

- Reputation of the artist
- Local connections to Dunedin/Otago
- Relevance of the subject
- Artistic merit
- Synergies with existing works in the collection
- Synergies with other Library collections
- Condition of the work
- Space required

When works are accepted the intention is to keep them in perpetuity and donation agreements reflect this.

## **10. Deselection**

In general works in this collection will not be deselected. The Library reserves the right to manage the collection as it sees fit and if a work was subject to damage there may be circumstances where deselection was a necessity.

A few works are on semi permanent loan to the Library e.g. several works owned by the Dunedin Public Art Gallery, the Otago Museum and one work by a family residing overseas which may, at some future date, be required to be returned or the Library may decide that the objects are no longer suitable to remain in the collection.

## **11. Formats**

The collection is mainly art works on paper or canvas using watercolour, acrylic, oil, gouache, pencil, mixed media and representing a number of processes including lithograph, screenprint, engraving, mezzotint and woodcut. However there are a broad range of mediums and these include marble, oamaru stone, wood, raku clay, flax, porcelain, bronze, stainless steel/aluminum, rope, woven materials, glass, resin/fiberglass, wool, cotton.

## **12. Acquisition and Purchasing**

Not generally applicable. The Library is not funded to develop a Permanent Art Collection. However the fourteen 'Stations of the Cross' by Bashir Baraki were purchased by a former City Librarian Michael Wooliscroft to embellish the rimu walls in the Heritage area when the City Library opened in 1982. A few other works have been purchased since by Library and Council staff including Anna Shin's String Quartet series purchased on behalf of Council by former Dunedin Mayor Sukhi Turner for display in the Library.

## **13. Standing Orders**

Not applicable.

## **14. Donations**

The Permanent Art Collection relies on donations and bequests although some works are from the Library's former rental art work collection which was disestablished. Individuals and organisations have seen fit to bestow important, valuable and aesthetically pleasing works to the Library for the following reasons:

- in honour of notable events such as the establishment of the City Library in Moray Place and the Library's Centenary in 2008
- to showcase their works by having them hang in a prominent public space
- to embellish sometimes austere walls and to enhance the visual appeal of the libraries
- as gestures of appreciation for the library as a service and its value to the community
- to contribute to community identity

## **15. Preservation and Repair**

Works are regularly inspected to ensure frames, mats and glass meet appropriate conservation standards. Works in non paper formats are reviewed regularly and appropriate experts in the community consulted with.

Conservation work for this collection is funded from the Library's conservation budget.

At each valuation a condition assessment is carried out and recommendations are acted on as funds allow.

At 2016 there is little outstanding conservation required. Some works are protected by perspex when their location could make them vulnerable.

## **16. Review**

This policy will be reviewed at least five yearly.

Endorsed by the Senior Management Team, 2016

## **17. Related Documents**

Dunedin Public Libraries - Donations Policy