



2005/06 year of historical achievement at the Art Gallery of South Australia

The Art Gallery of South Australia has celebrated its 125th anniversary with an historical year of major achievements, recording the second highest annual visitation at the Gallery since 1881, and with new acquisitions valued at the highest level in a decade.

Figures soon to be released in the Gallery's 2005/06 annual report reveal that 526,500 people, the equivalent of around one in two Adelaide residents, visited the Gallery between July 2005 and June 2006, confirming the Gallery's position among the top three most visited art museums nationally.

A total 363 works of art with a market value of around \$8 million were acquired over the 12 month period, with the highlight being a rare watercolour by J.M.W. Turner, *Scarborough town and castle; morning: boys catching crabs* c.1810, acquired to commemorate the Gallery's 125th anniversary.

The Gallery's collection remains the second largest state collection in Australia with around 35,000 objects valued at more than \$600 million. An online gallery was launched in June 2006, providing internet access to 400 highlights from across the collections.

The *2006 Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art: 21st Century Modern* was the most popular exhibition of 2005/06 with around 35,000 visitors. An additional 90,810 visitors viewed the Gallery's touring exhibitions in other parts of the country.

Once again the Gallery funded 55% of its own operating costs, raising over \$7.5 million in commercial revenues, donations, donated works of art and sponsorship, with Government funds making up the remaining 45%.

Director of the Art Gallery of South Australia, Christopher Menz said, "the Art Gallery of South Australia continues to make its presence felt at a national level and in our 125th anniversary year, we are extremely proud to announce such remarkable achievements and to have shared these with so many visitors."

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