

# *Acquisitions Policy*

As South Australia's principal art museum, the Art Gallery of South Australia aims to build a representative collection of world art, a comprehensive collection of Australian art and an in-depth collection of South Australian art. In practice and for the time being the Gallery chooses to allocate its limited resources to improving its coherent survey collections of Australian art, European art since the Renaissance, East Asian and Islamic art. Works of art should only be acquired if:

- they are of the highest artistic quality, or they are of historical or national or regional significance;
- they are in a good state of preservation and are suitable for display;
- they satisfy the requirements of the UNESCO Cultural Convention of 1970.

## *Australian art*

The Art Gallery of South Australia's collection of Australian art is of outstanding quality and size, enabling the visitor to trace the development of Australian art from the beginning of the colonial period through Federation to the present. Its collection of nineteenth-century colonial art is without rival, particularly in geographical coverage, and strong in fine examples of early oil painting, watercolours, sculpture, silver and furniture. The Australian twentieth-century collection is large, balanced and comprehensive, covering all media – including paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs and decorative arts. The Gallery emphasises Indigenous art of the mid twentieth century from all parts of Australia and has the finest collection of Aboriginal desert dot paintings from Central Australia.

The Gallery aims to build on its comprehensive collection of Australian art. Naturally, special emphasis is placed upon South Australian art in all media, and works of art relating to South Australia and its history. Recognition should also be given to the art of Australia's near neighbours.

### *European art*

The Art Gallery of South Australia's collection of European art is one of the two largest in Australasia, covering all media from the Renaissance onwards. The collection is rich in continental European Old Master paintings, especially from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and prints from the late fifteenth century onwards. The Gallery also has a fine and balanced collection of British art, including the decorative arts, from the mid-sixteenth century to the present.

The Gallery aims to build on its representative collection of European art since the Renaissance (including American art since the 1940s). Particular emphasis should be placed on the Gallery's acknowledged strengths such as the Old Master paintings and prints as well as objects from Morris & Company and the Arts and Crafts Movement.

### *Asian and Islamic art*

The Art Gallery of South Australia's fine collection of Asian and Islamic art is notable for its particular strengths in the areas of tenth to sixteenth-century Thai, Vietnamese and Cambodian ceramics (one of the finest collections in the world); Indian and Indonesian textiles of the seventeenth to the early twentieth century, and Japanese art. Other cultures represented in the collection include Burmese, Chinese, Korean, Tibetan and Persian. The Gallery aims to build on its representative collections of East Asian, South-East Asian, South Asian and Islamic art, with particular emphasis on Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Indonesian and Indian art.

### *Ancillary collections*

The Art Gallery of South Australia aims to build on its existing collections of books, journals and other printed matter relating to the Gallery's art collections. The Gallery acquires artists' archival materials, memorabilia and other documentation relating to the Gallery's art collection and the history of its activities.