

Charter and Goals

Charter

The mission of the Art Gallery of South Australia is to serve the South Australian and wider communities by providing access to original works of art of the highest quality. The Gallery seeks to foster, promote and enhance understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts in general through its permanent collections, temporary exhibitions and other public programs.

Goals

Collection

The Gallery should preserve and add to its permanent collections, works of art of outstanding aesthetic quality, art-historical importance and regional significance. These collections should be maintained and displayed in accordance with international standards and conventions of museum conservation, handling and security. The collections should be developed, researched, conserved, displayed, interpreted, promoted and complemented by temporary exhibitions and loans.

Display

The Gallery's displays of its collections and temporary exhibitions should be visually pleasing, educational, as well as appropriate to particular themes or audience. Where possible they should be arranged in an art historically suitable manner. Every effort should be made to cater for specialist visual arts audiences (including artists, students, scholars of art, history and related disciplines) as well as to satisfy the requirements of the general public. Attractive and educative displays should foster new audiences throughout the South Australian community.

Interpretation

Where appropriate, the Gallery should provide easily accessible interpretative information about works of art in its collection and temporary exhibitions in the form of signs and clear wall texts and labels, as well as publications, audio tours, website access and public programs including films, lectures, seminars and the services of education officers and gallery guides. Temporary exhibitions should seek to provide access to works of art that are not normally available in South Australia and/or to cast new light on familiar works.

Research & Documentation

The Gallery should research, evaluate and catalogue its collections in the interests of public information, clarity of interpretation, national and international scholarship, effective record-keeping. A central catalogue containing photographs of every object should be maintained and, where appropriate and feasible, published.

Promotion

The Gallery should promote its collections, temporary exhibitions and other public programs, fostering in the community an awareness of the various purposes of art museums and of what can be gained from works of art. It should evaluate the needs of the community and respond appropriately.

Management

In the interest of responsible and cost-effective management the Gallery should aim to raise a significant proportion of its funds through entrepreneurial, commercial activities, sponsorship and donations.

Advice

The Gallery should exercise its obligation to advise the government of South Australia in all matters to do with the visual arts in South Australia.