

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Date August 22, 2013

Number POL-1

Policies and Procedures

Revision Date
June 20, 2014

Revision No.
10

Policy Type (GP, AD, A, etc.) and Number: POL-1_Acquisitions_1

Subject: SFU Galleries Acquisitions Policy for the SFU Art Collection

1. PREAMBLE

SFU Galleries, including the SFU Art Collection, engage and enrich the communities of SFU, metro Vancouver, and local, national, and international art audiences by presenting innovative exhibitions and programs that present art's current and past practices; exploring crucial considerations of this region; preserving and activating modern and contemporary art practices regionally and nationally. The SFU Art Collection is used by researchers and students, as well as by authors, publishers and other museums and galleries who reproduce images in print and online publications.

SFU Galleries seeks to strengthen its permanent art collection primarily through donations, strategic purchases, and selective deaccessioning. Collecting concentrates on contemporary works of art created by significant Canadian artists working locally and nationally.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 SFU Galleries

SFU Galleries include SFU Gallery (Burnaby), Audain Gallery (Vancouver), and Teck Gallery (Vancouver). SFU Galleries are also the stewards of the SFU Art Collection. The SFU Galleries serve the students enrolled at the university, the art community and the general public. SFU Galleries encourage conceptual and experimental projects that explore ways in which contemporary art is socially and politically engaged.

2.2 SFU Art Collection

An art collection is an organized accumulation of objects that have intrinsic value and which a cultural institution holds in trust for the public. The SFU Art Collection was established in 1965 and consists of over 5,600 works of art; the majority are works of art on paper and the remainder is comprised of paintings, sculpture, and photographs. The heterogeneous Art Collection includes significant contemporary and modern works of art from regional, national, and international artists.

In 1983, SFU Gallery received a Category 'A' designation from the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board (CCPERB) giving the Gallery the status to accept gifts that may be certified as cultural property.

2.3 Other Works of Art at SFU

The University may acquire works which would not enter into the SFU Art Collection and over which SFU Galleries does not have jurisdiction. For example: any university

department may acquire works of art for their own departmental areas and those works would not be part of the SFU Art Collection.

2.4 SFU Galleries Advisory Committee

The SFU Galleries Advisory Committee is a consultative body that advises on, reviews and endorses those policies recommended by the Director of the Galleries on such matters as funding, programming, collecting, communications and planning.

2.5 SFU Galleries Acquisitions Committee

The SFU Galleries Acquisitions Committee is a sub-committee of the SFU Galleries Advisory Committee. It is made up of SFU staff, faculty and professionals from the art community. The committee approves or rejects works of art proposed for acquisition to the SFU Art Collection.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of the SFU Galleries Acquisitions Policy is to establish and provide direction for the policies and procedures governing the ongoing development and enrichment of the SFU Art Collection.

4. SCOPE

This Acquisitions Policy has been developed to rigorously frame the orientation of the content of the SFU Art Collection in relation to the SFU Galleries mandate and its programming. It must be fully adapted to the Galleries' activities and ensure that the acquisition process respects the professional standards prevailing in the current art gallery and museum environment. The professional staff of SFU Galleries understands that these practices may need to be re-assessed from time to time and the policy and procedures consequently adjusted.

This Policy will guide the SFU Galleries Acquisitions Committee in its development of the SFU Art Collection, to complement the Gallery's programming by adding significant works to the SFU Art Collection. The Acquisitions Policy's defining principles reflect the mandate of SFU Galleries which is dedicated to presenting innovative exhibitions and programs that present art's current and past practices; exploring crucial considerations of this region; preserving and activating modern and contemporary art practices regionally and nationally.

This Acquisitions Policy only covers works of art that are potential acquisitions to the SFU Art Collection. Working with University Advancement, the Gift Agreement for acquisitions is signed by SFU Galleries and University Advancement.

Other donations to the University are covered under the SFU *Donations Policy (GP 03)*.

SFU Galleries is not responsible for works of art at the University that are not part of the SFU Art Collection.

5. ACQUISITIONS

5.1 Policy Objectives

- 5.1.1 Works of art will be acquired through purchase, gift, bequest, exchange, transfer, or commission. Regardless of the mode of acquisition, all works are considered on the basis of the same selection criteria.

- 5.1.2 Acquisitions will be judiciously selected by the Director, SFU Galleries and the Acquisitions Committee, to contribute to the strengths of the art collection, to fill gaps, and to create a desired balance between periods. SFU Galleries has a strong commitment to enriching its Canadian contemporary art collection.
- 5.1.3 The Director, and the Chair of the Advisory Committee, will appoint members of the Acquisitions Committee. Individuals must have demonstrated a commitment to and knowledge of the visual arts to be considered for the Acquisitions Committee. The term of office shall be two years, renewable for up to two additional terms. The committee's quorum is three; all voting members must be present.
 - 5.1.3.1 Director, SFU Galleries – Chairperson
 - 5.1.3.2 One Simon Fraser University faculty member from within the School for the Contemporary Arts, Visual Arts
 - 5.1.3.3 One member of the arts community who is not employed at Simon Fraser University (such as Senior Curator at the Vancouver Art Gallery)
 - 5.1.3.4 One Simon Fraser University staff from University Advancement
 - 5.1.3.5 One Simon Fraser University staff or faculty.
- 5.1.4 The Acquisitions Committee must approve, or reject, all recommendations of works of art for acquisition and deaccession for the SFU Art Collection.
- 5.1.5 SFU Galleries is the only area of the University with the requisite skills and authority to acquire new works of art for the SFU Art Collection and to care for and exhibit such works.
- 5.1.6 SFU Galleries exhibits works from the SFU Art Collection within the University and may loan works externally in accordance with guidelines and procedures established by the Gallery.

5.2 Collecting Area

- 5.2.1 In developing the SFU Art Collection, SFU Galleries' ensures that all acquisitions, either through purchase, gift, bequest, exchange, transfer, or commission, are by significant artists and are of the highest quality, optimal condition and of historical importance.
- 5.2.2 Acquisitions will target significant works by artists who have ties to the history of British Columbia and Canadian art history and who are not represented in the Collection. SFU Galleries also seeks to acquire designated important works by major artists in the SFU Art Collection that will significantly enhance their representation within the Collection.
- 5.2.3 All acquisitions must meet the selection criteria set forth in Section 7 below.

5.3 Outdoor Art and Art in Public Spaces

Works of art intended for permanent or long-term display outside of normal gallery exhibitions, particularly those intended for outdoor locations, entail considerations of location, installation safety, and on-going maintenance. In addition to the criteria applicable to all objects in the SFU Art Collection, the acquisition, management, and care of public art will include the collaboration between SFU Galleries Director and various university departments (see SFU's Policy, *Murals and Displays of Art Work*).

6. DEACCESSIONING

The purpose of deaccessioning is to facilitate the long-term improvement of the SFU Art Collection by removing works of art that are no longer integral to the SFU Art Collection for various reasons. It shall be assumed that deaccessioning is not a regular practice and will be conducted on a case-by-case basis. Deaccessioning requires rigorous examination because such an act is irrevocable. The Director, SFU Galleries, will present works of art recommended for deaccessioning to the Acquisitions Committee. A work of art may only be deaccessioned on the authority of the Committee.

6.1 Principles

- 6.1.1 Deaccessioning must be undertaken in accordance with the highest professional standards and ethics, and must not be influenced by arbitrary taste or individual preference.
- 6.1.2 To deaccession means that a work of art is removed from the collection and considered for disposal by sale, exchange or destruction and is only undertaken under exceptional circumstances.
- 6.1.3 The decision to deaccession should be made cautiously and SFU Galleries will ensure that all deaccessions and disposals are carried out according to the principles, procedures and code of ethics established by the Canadian Museums Association (CMA), *Ethic Guidelines*, 1999.
- 6.1.4 Works of art may be deaccessioned for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following:
 - 6.1.4.1 The work of art is not relevant to the mission of SFU Galleries or has little value in the SFU Art Collection;
 - 6.1.4.2 The work of art is redundant or is a duplicate and is not necessary for research purposes;
 - 6.1.4.3 The work of art lacks sufficient art historical importance to warrant retention;
 - 6.1.4.4 The work of art is of lesser quality than other objects of the same type either already in the SFU Art Collection or about to be acquired;
 - 6.1.4.5 The authenticity, attribution or genuineness of the work of art is questionable or determined to be false or fraudulent;
 - 6.1.4.6 The legal title of a work can be successfully challenged in law, e.g. the work may have been stolen or illegally imported, SFU Galleries will follow international guidelines around repatriation;
 - 6.1.4.7 The work has been acquired in violation of Canadian law or international treaties binding upon the Government of Canada;
 - 6.1.4.8 The University has the permission of the donor to sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of the work that was donated;
 - 6.1.4.9 SFU Galleries is unable to preserve the work of art in a responsible manner or it is determined that it has decomposed;
 - 6.1.4.10 The work of art is unduly difficult or impossible to care for or store properly.
- 6.1.5 Deaccessioning of a work of art must be made in compliance with the relevant procedures.

6.2 Ethics and Standards of Deaccessioning

- 6.2.1 All funds received from the sale of deaccessioned works of art are credited to SFU Galleries for future acquisitions in accordance with the accessioning principles in the Acquisitions Policy.
- 6.2.2 If a work of art is to be deaccessioned, the donor should be consulted whenever possible. Where a work of art, acquired by gift or bequest, is sold or exchanged, future works of art acquired from those proceeds or by exchange should bear a credit in the name of the original donor.
- 6.2.3 SFU Galleries shall honour all legal restrictions attached to the gift or bequest of all works of art. Requests by donors, which do not impose any legal obligation accompanying the bequest or gift of any work of art will be respected to the extent feasible. Before recommending that a donated work be deaccessioned the Collections Manager, SFU Galleries, will first review the records of the gift to confirm that the gift is unrestricted.
- 6.2.4 No member of the SFU Galleries Advisory and Acquisitions Committees, Gallery staff, or those whose association with SFU Galleries might give them advantage in acquiring a work of art is permitted to acquire directly or indirectly a work of art deaccessioned from the SFU Art Collection. No Committee member or staff member may benefit from the sale or trade of a work of art from the SFU Art Collection.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 7.1 The following selection criteria will be used for all acquisitions whether it is a purchase, gift, bequest, exchange, transfer, or commission. All collecting will be done according to the highest standards of ethical and professional practice.
 - 7.1.1 Priority given to British Columbian and Canadian artists;
 - 7.1.2 Current relevance to the SFU Art Collection in light of SFU Galleries' programming and stated mission;
 - 7.1.3 Cultural significance of the work for art history;
 - 7.1.4 The physical state and conservation requirements of the work should be in, or capable of being returned to, an acceptable state of conservation, unless the physical condition is integral to the meaning of the work;
 - 7.1.5 Adequate resources must be available for the maintenance, conservation, storage, access for research and display of the work of art in order for SFU Galleries to be able to house and care for the proposed acquisition according to generally accepted museum practices;
 - 7.1.6 Only works for which clear legal title can be firmly established should be considered for acquisition. Works will not be knowingly acquired or recommended for acquisition if they have been collected or obtained under illegal circumstances;
 - 7.1.7 As a general rule, SFU Galleries will not accept gifts or bequests where conditions are attached, unless the Acquisitions Committee approves the attached conditions.

8. ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE DUTIES

- 8.1 The primary responsibility of the Acquisitions Committee will be to consider works of art brought forward by the Director, SFU Galleries, for acquisition to the SFU Art Collection.

The Acquisitions Committee's decision to approve or reject a proposal will be based on the exercise of due diligence in ensuring that the principles and procedures for acquisition are being followed.

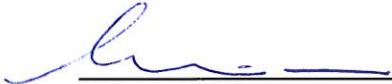
- 8.2 The Acquisitions Committee's decisions should not be based on aesthetic or subjective evaluation of works of art but on the principles for acceptance outlined in this Acquisitions Policy and the Committee shall recognize the professional expertise of the Director, SFU Galleries.
- 8.3 The Acquisitions Committee will from time to time consider proposals by the Director, SFU Galleries to deaccession works of art from the SFU Art Collection.

9. AUTHORITY

This Acquisitions Policy is administered under SFU Galleries, which is governed by the Vice-President of External Relations.

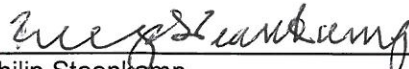
10. PROCEDURES (separate linked document)

- Acquisitions and Deaccessioning Procedures



Melanie O'Brian
Director, SFU Galleries

Oct. 6, 2014
Date



Philip Steenkamp
VP, External Relations

OCT 6, 2014
Date