



Penrith Performing Arts & Visual Arts Ltd

PENRITH PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS LTD

PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY & THE LEWERS BEQUEST

ACQUISITION POLICY

**PENRITH REGIONAL GALLERY & THE LEWERS BEQUEST COLLECTIONS
ACQUISITIONS POLICY
Adopted 4 March 2009**

Policy Statement

All artworks contained in and/or acquired for the Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest Collections whether by gift, bequest, purchase or loan, involve considerable investment by Penrith Performing & Visual Arts (on behalf of Penrith City Council) in the care, maintenance, conservation and protection of such art works.

Therefore only artworks, cultural objects or ephemera of the highest artistic standard and integrity, which satisfy the objectives of the Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest Collections, shall be accepted by purchase, gift, loan or bequest into the Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest Collections.

Artworks, cultural objects or ephemera offered, on loan or as a gift or bequest, which do not meet the quality criteria or meet the Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest Collections Acquisition Policy objectives, should not be recommended for acquisition into the Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest Collections.

Policy Objectives

To develop the Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest Collections, to be managed by Penrith Performing & Visual Arts Ltd on behalf of Penrith City Council, and to be displayed/housed at Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest, Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith City Council and such places as determined by the Board of Management.

The Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest Collections will comprise the following key components i.e.

1. The Lewers Bequest
2. Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest Collection
3. Penrith Performing & Visual Arts Collection.

Specifically....

1. The Lewers Bequest

The Lewers Bequest is a composite bequest comprising site, buildings, furniture, artworks, books, publications, photographs and printed ephemera given by Mrs. Darani Larsen and Mrs. Tanya Crothers to Penrith City Council in 1980. This policy is specific only to the following elements of that original 1980 bequest:

- Artworks
- Furniture and soft furnishings
- Books, publications, photographs and printed ephemera
- Aboriginal rock engravings.

Importantly, it was Margo Lewers' intention that Penrith, the region and the public at large have a facility (and Collection) enabling the experience and study of visual arts.

Rationale – Lewers Bequest Artworks

Gerald and Margo Lewers were actively involved in the development of the visual arts. This activity occurred through their practice, their formal and casual associations with other artists, writers, administrators and their desire to collect and preserve for the future. They lived in a specific period and were known to be keenly interested in the development of new and unique thought and practice in the visual arts.

The Lewers were interested in the development of the art of their time and their influence upon and place within that development. Thus the Lewers Bequest should be seen within the context of the Lewers, their contemporaries and the cultural debates of their time.

Rationale – Lewers Bequest Books, Publications, Photographs and Printed Ephemera

Gerald and Margo Lewers collected throughout their life time books, journals, periodicals, catalogues and other printed material (including photographs) related to their interests and artistic milieu. It is important that such material be kept, conserved and used to facilitate research in the work of the Lewers, their contemporaries and the development of Australian Modernism and Abstraction. This also includes furniture and soft furnishings.

NB: All artworks, cultural objects or ephemera contained within the original Lewers Bequest will not de-accessioned

2. Penrith Regional Gallery Collection

The Penrith Regional Gallery Collection is made up of artworks, cultural objects or ephemera purchased by, donated or gifted specifically to Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest from 1980.

Rationale

Margo and Gerald Lewers were actively involved in, and committed to, the development of Australian visual arts. Both were keenly interested in the development of new and unique thought, artistic practice, debate and visual arts education. Thus works acquired should reflect, explore and critique the practices, histories, interests and philosophic commitments of Gerald and Margo Lewers and their contemporaries.

Concurrently, Penrith Performing & Visual Arts is premised on a commitment to artistic excellence, contemporary practice and community engagement across and between the performing and visual arts – with specific focus on the City of Penrith and the western Sydney region.

Thus, the rationale of the Penrith Regional Gallery Collection to honour and build upon the spirit and intent of the original Lewers Bequest; and the aspirations of Penrith Performing & Visual Arts specific to contemporary visual culture.

Guidelines for Acquisition

Penrith Performing & Visual Arts (on behalf of Penrith City Council) will, as is practicable, continue to acquire works which demonstrate and/or reflect:

- The philosophies and practices explored by Gerald and Margo Lewers and their contemporaries;
- The contrasts and comparative philosophies and practices of Australian Modernism (1930 to 1980);
- Those philosophies and practice which influenced the practices of Gerald and Margo Lewers and their contemporaries (particularly Abstraction, Constructivism and Minimalism)
- Analysis, exploration and/or critique of Australian Modernism and Abstraction by contemporary artists (post 1980).
- Excellence and rigorous commitment to contemporary practice by Western Sydney artists and/or artists working in the region.
- The people, place and history of Penrith and western Sydney as reflected in contemporary visual culture.

NB: Art works, cultural objects or ephemera contained within the Penrith Regional Gallery Collection will be subject to the terms and conditions of the P&&VA De-accessioning Policy.

3. Penrith Performing & Visual Arts Collection

The Penrith Performing & Visual Arts Collection is made up of artworks, cultural objects and ephemera specifically purchased by, donated or gifted to Penrith Performing & Visual Arts.

Rationale

Penrith Performing & Visual Arts is premised on a commitment to artistic excellence, contemporary practice and community engagement across and between the performing and visual arts – with specific focus on the city of Penrith. The rationale of the Penrith Performing & Visual Arts Collection is to reflect and build upon the spirit and aspirations of this ongoing commitment.

Guidelines for Acquisition

The Penrith Performing & Visual Arts Collection will be made up of artworks, cultural objects and ephemera which demonstrate and/or reflect:

1. The history of Australia performing arts, with particular reference to:
 - The work and repertoire of Dame Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngé
 - The history of the Q Theatre Company (a.k.a Railway Street Theatre Company)
 - The history of the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre (and Penrith Conservatorium of Music);
2. Excellence in the performing and visual arts in Penrith;
3. The people, place and history of Penrith.

NB: Art works, cultural objects or ephemera contained within the Penrith Performing & Visual Arts Collection will be subject to the terms and conditions of the P&VA De-accessioning Policy.

Acquisition Procedures

- All proposed acquisitions, whether by purchase, gift, bequest, exchange or loan will be placed by the CEO (Penrith Performing & Visual Arts) before the PP&VA Visual Arts Subcommittee for appraisal within the spirit and detail of the Acquisitions Policy for the final approval of the PP&VA Board of Management.
- In placing proposed acquisitions before the Board, the CEO will (with advice from the Director, Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest) determine whether they are consistent with this Policy, and advise the Board of his/her determination.
- All proposals shall be in writing and should include details of the artist's name and country or countries of affiliation, the title of the work and its date of execution, its medium and size, the method of acquisition, the vendor or donor, the provenance of the work, its price, its valuation or insurance value if a gift or a loan, its current condition, as well as a statement setting out the reasons for its acquisition, its place in the Penrith City Art Collection and its merit as a work of art in its own right.
- Once approval is granted by the Board of Directors this fact will be recorded in the relevant meeting minutes and the written proposal will be signed by the Chairman of the Board and by the CEO.
- No acquisition will be made which compromises or jeopardises the financial viability of PP&VA, however, PP&VA may negotiate with the vendor a system of periodical payments to obtain the maximum benefit for PP&VA for purchases which are unable to be made in one lump sum.
- PP&VA will obtain clear and valid title to all purchases, bequests or gifts.
- PP&VA will only accept gifts under Commonwealth Government of Australia cultural gifts and tax incentive programs which fulfill the requirements of the Acquisitions Policy, and PP&VA will comply with all regulations governing such programs.
- PP&VA will refuse to accept any work which bears any unreasonable or inappropriate restrictions on either its display, conservation or storage and, where acceptance of any reasonable restrictions occur, PP&VA will honour those restrictions.
- PP&VA will not purchase any works of art directly from members of its staff or from members of its Board of Directors.
- PP&VA will be mindful of Australian or international laws or covenants which restrict or govern the acquisition and export of cultural material.

Attribution

When displayed all artworks, cultural objects or ephemera contained within the Lewers Bequest and/or Penrith Regional Gallery Collections are to bear the following attribution:

Name of Artist (plus date of birth/death)

Artwork title (plus date of creation)

Media/materials information

Dimensions as required

Collection Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest

(Donor information as required)

When displayed all artworks, cultural objects or ephemera contained within the Penrith Performing & Visual Arts Collection are to bear the following attribution:

Name of Artist (plus date of birth/death)

Artwork title (plus date of creation)

Media/materials information

Dimensions as required

Collection Penrith Performing & Visual Arts

(Donor information as required)