

POLICY DOCUMENT



ART CONSULTING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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OVERVIEW

Vision

The Art Consulting Association of Australia is the peak industry body for art consultants in Australia, an organization benchmarking ethics, expertise and excellence in the visual arts.

History

The Art Consulting Association of Australia was incorporated in 2006 after consultations with industry specialists in November 2005. Its founding committee was Anita Archer, Marnie Feneley, Michael Reid, Alison Renwick, Sarrah Shapley, Sophie Ullin and Virginia Wilson. Pro-bono support came from Lowensteins Arts Management (financial) and Archer Thompson Lawyers (legal).

Mission

The Art Consulting Association of Australia is a professional industry association representing and linking art consultants nationally.

The purposes and objectives of the Association are:

- to represent, promote and further the interests of art consulting as a professional endeavour in Australia
- to develop, maintain and promote a set of ethical standards in relation to the conduct of art consultants and valuers
- to enhance the professional standing of the association by requiring its members to possess a high standard of knowledge and maintain strict ethical standards in the conduct of their business affairs
- to promote honesty and integrity in dealings between art consultants, museums, dealers and art collectors and thereby develop stronger ties between consultants, artists, their agents, arts bodies, and Government
- to assist in the development and promotion of a national standard for the authentication of works of art
- to bring together members of the Association for the mutual improvement and higher education of one another
- to promote, support or oppose legislative or other measures affecting the business interests of Members and the welfare of artists and organisations that represent them
- to play an educative role in the wider community through the Association's website, and related materials and events, such as flyers, member talks and press releases
- to promote the role of artists and community organisations in the preservation and maintenance of the Australian cultural life
- to collect, maintain and circulate to Members statistics and other information in regard to the national and international art market, or any legislation affecting it
- to print, publish, issue and/or circulate such papers, pamphlets, periodicals, books, circulars and other written material as may appear to be conducive to any of these objectives
- to do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objectives and the exercise of the powers of the Association
- to provide information and links to those seeking the services of an art consultant
- to grow its membership and remain the peak art body providing a platform and voice for the art consulting industry.

Membership Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for membership:

1. Tertiary qualification or equivalent, in relevant field;
and/or
2. Industry experience for a period not less than 5 years (cumulative)
in at least two of the following:
 - relevant tertiary qualifications
 - commercial gallery experience
 - public art institution
 - auction rooms
 - consultancy practice.

New membership applications will be presented to the Executive Committee for consideration/approval upon receipt. Application forms and conditions are available for download on the ACAA website.

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MEMBERS

Overview

Members agree to act in a responsible and ethical manner with due consideration to the Copyright Act of 1968, the Moral Rights Act of 2000 and the Resale Royalties Act of 2009. Members agree to respect and actively contribute to visual art and art practice in Australia. Members agree to respect the integrity of artwork when considering the best interests of their clients.

Buying art

Members will purchase art in a responsible and ethical manner with an awareness of industry issues and standards.

Members agree to not knowingly purchase fraudulent works of art.

Members agree to fully disclose any known provenance at the point of time of purchase and to continue to provide updated provenance information if it becomes known to the member.

Members are obliged to adequately research and inform themselves of the provenance of an artwork that they are purchasing in order to apply ethical judgment and accepted industry standards to the purchase.

Selling art

Members will sell art in a responsible and ethical manner with an awareness of industry issues and standards.

Members agree to not knowingly sell fraudulent works of art.

Members agree to adequately research and inform themselves of the provenance of an artwork that they are selling and refer that information to the purchaser as part of the sale process or at the time that the information becomes available.

Representing clients

Members agree to represent their clients ethically and responsibly, to respect the privacy of their relationship and business with the client and to act in the best interest of their client at all times.

Advising clients

Members agree to full transparency of information when advising clients. All members agree to inform clients of both positive and negatives aspects of any transaction and not to withhold any information that may influence the decision of a client. All members agree to provide advice that is in the best interest of the client at all times.

Artwork valuation for purchase and sale

When providing valuation documentation relating to the sale or purchase of an artwork, members agree to adequately independently research and value the artworks under consideration and to provide a valuation that accurately reflects current market conditions.

Members agree to insist on a second opinion, or assist in finding a more suitable independent valuer, if they have had a prior interest in an artwork being valued, or should there be any danger of a perceived or implied conflict of interest.

Valuation for insurance

When providing valuation documentation for insurance purposes, members agree to adequately independently research and value the artworks under consideration and to provide a valuation that accurately reflects current replacement market conditions.

Storage, handling and conservation

Where storage and handling of artwork is required, members agree to engage in safe and appropriate art storage and handling practices. Members agree to take into account any conservation requirements.

When providing advice, members agree to recommend reputable and appropriate suppliers.

Relationships with suppliers

Members agree to act in a professional and ethical manner in dealing with all suppliers relevant to their art consultancy practice.

Independence and accountability

Members are required to practice independently. This means that the member will engage in a practice that is not directly linked or influenced by another business or entity relevant to their art consultancy practice.

Members agree to be accountable for their decisions and advice and to adequately document and record their business practices.

Fees and charges

Members agree to negotiate and inform clients of fees and charges in advance of a transaction, to disclose any secondary commissions, and to discuss any changes or alterations to fees and charges in a full, frank and timely manner.