# POLICY 1.57 – McINTOSH GALLERY COLLECTIONS

**Policy Category:** General

**Subject:** Acquisitions, Donations, Deaccession and Loans Policy for the McIntosh Gallery

**Approving Authority:** Board of Governors

**Responsible Officer(s):** Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

**Responsible Office(s):** McIntosh Gallery Committee

**Related Procedures:** Procedure for Policy 1.57 – McIntosh Gallery Collections

**Related University Policies:** Gift Acceptance
Fund Raising and Canvassing
Naming

**Effective Date:** June 25, 2020

**Supersedes:** (NEW)

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## I. PURPOSE

The McIntosh Gallery is a centre for the presentation and dissemination of advanced practices and research in the fields of art history and contemporary visual art. McIntosh serves the students, faculty and staff of Western University and the broader community of the City of London as a teaching and research resource. Ongoing programs and services actively promote innovative projects in the production, exhibition, interpretation and collection of visual culture.

The Collection's active development and maintenance are essential to the fulfillment of the Gallery's mandate and to its wider responsibility to the community. The Collection is integral to the Gallery's institutional direction and identity.

McIntosh Gallery's collecting practices are guided by this formal policy. The Gallery also adheres to the best museological practices in its collecting activities, in compliance with relevant laws, ethical guidelines and policies. Service to the public good defines the Gallery's collecting practices, and is the fundamental standard against which decisions are measured. McIntosh Gallery is designated a Category A

Institution, and as such is governed by a legal framework regulated by the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board, Department of Canadian Heritage.

## II. DEFINITIONS

**Collection:** Means the McIntosh Gallery's registered permanent collection and its related intellectual property, to be used for the exclusive purposes of preservation, research, and presentation to the public.

**Registrar:** Means the individual responsible for implementing policies, procedures and records management systems that relate to the care and conservation of the collection, and includes the role of collections manager.

## III. POLICY

### 1. GENERAL

#### 1.01 USES OF THE COLLECTION

It is the primary responsibility of the Gallery to conserve its Collection as a record of our cultural heritage in visual art and to carry this out according to accepted professional museological standards for art conservation and documentation. It is also the responsibility of the Gallery to promote the use of its Collection by making it accessible to its audiences through exhibitions of the Collection, special exhibitions, travelling exhibitions, supporting educational materials and loans. It is the responsibility of the Gallery to make the collection and documentation of same available for scholarly study and research.

Any use of the Collection inevitably involves a certain amount of wear and tear on the art, but if any specific use is judged to constitute a threat to the material fabric of a work of art then the responsibility of conservation will take precedence.

#### 1.02 PUBLIC ACCESS

The Gallery shall make reasonable attempts to provide public access to the Collection. However, the Gallery must maintain its responsibility for the safekeeping of the Collection and seek an acceptable balance between serving the community and the potential risk of damage or loss. The degree of accessibility will also of necessity be determined by the limitations of financial and staff resources.

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the William Abbott Endowment Fund established at Western University on behalf of the Gallery, funds shall be

used in service of the Collection including preventative and restorative conservation and related archival records.

### 1.03 PORTRAITS OF RECORD

From time to time, the Western University commissions portraits of record of university officials, primarily the board chair, chancellor and president. The Gallery shall monitor and advise on matters pertaining to conservation of these portraits. Western University bears the responsibility for the cost of preventative and restorative conservation for portraits of record in the Collection.

### 1.04 REGISTRAR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Gallery shall not permit any use of the Collection which is detrimental to the integrity of the art or to the reputation of the Gallery or Western University.

Every two years, the Collection shall be inventoried visually and inspected by the Registrar for condition. The Registrar shall secure any external expertise required to establish conservation priorities for the Collection. The Registrar shall maintain a formal liaison with Western University's Archives for consultation on collection processing and storage of archival materials.

## 2. ACQUISITIONS

### 2.01 STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Collecting intent of the Gallery is to continue to build a representative collection of the art of Southwestern Ontario, Canadian artists of national significance, and Canadian and international artists deemed to have had an influence on the art of the region. Recognizing the mobility of artists and the fluidity of geographically-based identity, the Gallery, through its collection, documents an ecology of Ontario artists, a network extending throughout the province and further afield. With London as a transit point within this network, we will follow trajectories of influence and lines of flight forged by artists who connect London to national and global art practices.

In keeping with current museum practices, the Gallery will engage in the process of decolonizing the Collection. Decolonization, in this context, refers to the process that institutions undergo to expand the perspectives they portray beyond those of the dominant cultural group, particularly European colonizers.This will take place through careful and considered deaccessioning of certain European works in accordance with the deaccession policy and any applicable donor agreement. Funds raised through such deaccessions will be used to purchase new works by Indigenous artists and artists of visible minorities to create a collection that more accurately represents the population and history of our region.

Through its acquisition practices, the Gallery will focus on the overarching goals of achieving greater diversity and gender parity within the Collection.

Current areas of specialization that the Gallery will develop include Indigenous work; drawing-based practices, including installation, new media, and an expanded field of drawing; contemporary photography, especially work by women, members of the LGBTTIQQ2SA+ community, and visible minorities to address systemic, historical imbalances in the existing collection.

Priority will be given to works that have been exhibited at the Gallery so that the Collection accurately reflects and complements the exhibition program. Thus, the collection will document the Gallery's ongoing curatorial activity and research.

## 2.02 COLLECTION AREAS

McIntosh Gallery collects contemporary and historical Canadian art from Southwestern Ontario. The Gallery also collects art by Canadian and international artists that provide context for regional art.

The Gallery holds a number of sub-collections that represent important stages in its historical evolution. These include art from the McIntosh bequest, 19th and 20th century Canadian painting, drawing-based practices, the Alumni Collection, and significant holdings of contemporary photography, and Indigenous art from 1970 to the present. The Gallery also has custodial responsibility for the Western University's Collection of portraits of record.

Key artists are collected in depth, while other artists are represented selectively to provide historical context. In addition, the Gallery is a repository for original archival materials related to the Collection and to specific artists represented within it.

## 3. DONATIONS

The Gallery welcomes outright gifts and bequests as an important endorsement of its mission and a means of assistance in carrying out its work. The Gallery shall consider all proposed gifts and donations; however, their acceptance depends upon these gifts being in accordance with the Gallery's and Western University's donation policies. The Gallery shall consider all proposed gifts; however, their acceptance depends upon these gifts being in accordance with the Gallery's and Western University's policies. The Gallery reserves the right to decline gifts, either wholly or in part. Gifts of art intended for the Collection are subject to due process and approval by the McIntosh Gallery Committee. Upon acceptance, the art will be appraised by an independent qualified and at arm's-length appraiser(s) secured by the donor and in accordance with Canada

Revenue Agency guidelines for the purposes of identifying the gift value for official donation receipts.

Each gift is considered on its own merit as it relates to the Collections Policy. A first acceptance of donated art is not a commitment by the Gallery to accept any subsequent or future gifts of works by the same artist or from the same donor.

### 3.01 BEQUESTS

Approval-in-principle may be determined by the Gallery Committee for any desirable bequests. However, the Gallery reserves the right to decline any gifts in accordance with established policies at the time that the bequest is realized.

## 4. DEACCESSION FROM THE COLLECTION

### 4.01 STATEMENT OF INTENT

Deaccessioning is a recognized part of collections management. It facilitates the long-term improvement of the Collection by removing art that is no longer integral to the Collection for various reasons. The Gallery will ensure that all deaccessions and disposals are carried out according to current international principles, procedures and code of ethics.

## 5. LOANS FROM THE COLLECTION

### 5.01 STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Gallery shall endeavour to provide reasonable public access to the Collection through the facilitation of temporary loans of art. In lending, the Gallery's first concern is to maintain its responsibility for the safekeeping of the collection and to seek an acceptable balance between serving the community and the potential risk of damage or loss. (While reasonable attempts will be made to provide public access to the Collection, the degree of access will of necessity also be determined by financial and staff resources.)

### 5.02 LOAN PURPOSES

Loans may be made for the purposes of exhibition, education, study, research and/or any other appropriate purpose at the discretion of Gallery curatorial staff. Art will not be loaned for purposes deemed to be unethical, illegal and otherwise incompatible with professional museological standards. Art will not be loaned for purposes deemed to be injurious to the reputations of the Gallery or Western University.