

CULTIVATING ETHICS, EXPERTISE AND EXCELLENCE IN THE VISUAL ARTS

Information about Membership

WHO WE ARE

The Australian Commercial Galleries Association (ACGA) is the leading national body representing commercial art galleries in the primary market.

Its members are among the most important and exciting galleries in Australia with a commitment to professional and ethical practice in the primary visual arts market.

The ACGA is a strong collective voice for contemporary art galleries and their artists in both the public and private spheres.

The ACGA drives innovation, ethics and excellence for the primary market through leadership, advocacy and service.

The ACGA and its members play a critical role in the visual arts world, promoting and supporting emerging and established artists and cultivating the Australian art market.

A central tenet of our mission is to develop the livelihood and reputation of Australian artists while enhancing the value and understanding of contemporary art within communities and cultivating the Australian art market and living Australian culture. Simultaneously the ACGA advocates for recognition of the close, complex and long-term partnership role commercial galleries have with artists.

The ACGA is a not for profit company, limited by guarantee.

Established in 1976, the ACGA and its members have played a pioneering role in support of contemporary art in Australia, among other things establishing the prestigious Melbourne Art Fair, the premier contemporary art fair for the Asia Pacific region. Membership of the Association is an important accreditation for a gallery and provides the certainty and confidence of reputation, ethics and excellence for collectors, potential buyers and art lovers.

WHAT WE DO

A strong collective voice - The ACGA is the leading national body for commercial art galleries, representing its members and their artists in both the public and private spheres.

Promoting ethical standards – The ACGA maintains and promotes professional and ethical standards for the primary market.

Services, networks, advice - The ACGA provides a comprehensive range of services and benefits to its members, providing networks, advice and expertise.

Cultivating the primary market – The ACGA works hard to promote the reputation and interest of its members and the artists they represent and to develop commercial opportunities.

Sustainable practices - The ACGA is committed to sustainability in its practices, and promotes green practices among its members. The ACGA has taken the lead in this area, developing the GreenGallery Guide in conjunction with the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Mentorship - The ACGA operates a mentorship program to encourage the future generation of commercial galleries to develop and respect ethical practices.

Education – The ACGA contributes to visual arts education for galleries, artists, collectors and art lovers, running and contributing to forums, workshops and seminars on a range of issues such as: ethical collecting, problematic art works and sustainable practices.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Our vision

The ACGA is the leading voice for commercial art galleries representing living Australian artists, cultivating ethics, expertise and excellence in the visual arts.

Our mission

The ACGA exists to be the collective voice of contemporary art galleries driving innovation, ethics and excellence for the primary market through leadership, advocacy and service. ACGA members develop the livelihood and reputation of Australian artists while enhancing the value and understanding of contemporary art within communities and cultivating the Australian art market and living Australian culture.

Our core values

Galleries strengthen humanity – they educate, inspire, challenge, enrich, nourish minds and spirits.

ACGA members are central to the visual arts market – they are vital to promoting reputation and developing the livelihood of Australian artists and are pivotal to the Australian art market nationally and internationally.

ACGA members represent excellence – ACGA members represent and exhibit Australian artists, driving standards, excellence and innovation in the representation and presentation of contemporary Australian art.

ACGA members seek to ensure provenance – ACGA members seek to ensure the provenance of works of art.

ACGA members are committed to ethical representation – ACGA members represent artists in the full sense, developing and promoting their interests with honesty and integrity over their professional careers. The ACGA drives standards, ethics and excellence through leadership, advocacy and service.

ACGA members are professionals – ACGA members are experts in the arts community, promoting innovation, creativity and participation.

OUR MEMBERS

Our members are among the most **important** and **exciting** galleries in Australia with a commitment to **professional** and **ethical** practice in the primary visual arts market.

Membership of the ACGA is an important accreditation for a gallery and provides the **certainty** and **confidence** of **reputation, ethics** and **excellence** for public and private collectors, potential buyers, and art lovers.

With members **in every State and Territory**, collectors, potential buyers and art lovers can experience ACGA member galleries **across Australia**.

ACGA members represent and exhibit Australian artists, **driving standards, excellence** and **innovation** in the representation and presentation of contemporary Australian art. ACGA members **represent artists** in the full sense, **developing** and **promoting** their interests with honesty and integrity over their professional careers.

ACGA members are **experts** in the arts community, promoting **innovation, creativity** and **participation**. ACGA members seek to ensure the **provenance** of works of art.

Many of our members are officially recognised to provide **valuations** for the Cultural Gifts Program and Cultural Bequests Program for the Australian Government. Member galleries provide a range of other services for collectors, buyers and art lovers, including carrying out valuations of works of art, in particular by artists they represent.

A full list of our members and links to their websites can be found at www.acga.com.au

ACGA CODE OF ETHICS

1. Members shall exhibit professionalism, honesty and integrity in their dealings with the public, museums, artists and other dealers. They shall not act in any way that will bring discredit to the Association
2. Members must assume responsibility for the works they exhibit in line with the agreed terms between artist and gallery, and must be responsible for the proper disclosure of information relating to any works exhibited
3. A member gallery shall not approach any artist to exhibit his/her work if this action would be in direct conflict with that artist's existing representation. In the event of an artist seeking a change in representation, the member gallery who has been approached should, as a matter of courtesy, advise the artist's original representative of the change, or request that the artist do so.
4. A member shall not represent him- or herself as the representative or agent for an artist when another gallery represents and acts for that artist.
5. A member shall not act in any way that may undermine exhibitions at another member's gallery.

BACKGROUND

The Australian Commercial Galleries Association was established as an incorporated association in 1976. Its then goals were to 'promote Australian artists and Australian art' to protect 'the good name and interests of the art trade' and to 'make representations to Government Department and other bodies as...necessary or desirable'.¹

Founding members included representatives of fifteen galleries in Sydney and Melbourne. In the intervening period membership has grown with five state chapters and a National Board including representatives from all states of Australia.

In 2000 the ACGA became a private, not-for-profit company with goals that have developed in relation to an expanding market and membership. As the sole professional group representing the perspectives of the primary market, the ACGA has a critical role to play in Australian visual arts infrastructure.

In accordance with the objects of its first constitution the ACGA initiated the first Australian Contemporary Art Fair (ACAF) in 1988. The Fair was sold to the Melbourne Art Foundation in March 2009.

In 2004 the Association successfully introduced a federated model of governance between the national and state bodies. The intention of federation is to allow the national body to focus on the 'big picture' issues that affect all members, while encouraging state chapters to initiate projects that address immediate state concerns.

As a not-for-profit membership organisation, membership fees are currently the primary source of income for the ACGA, and this maintains a part-time (4 days per week) chief executive officer.

¹ Excerpts from a letter to Chairman of the Australian National Gallery, Mr R.C. Crebbin from inaugural Chairman of the ACGA, Georges Mora, 8 September, 1976.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICES

Membership of the ACGA provides both tangible and intangible benefits. A key element of the ACGA is that its members are selected and approved by their peers. Members of the ACGA are highly respected and demonstrate a level of standing and commitment to the ethical representation of Australian living artists. Membership is coveted and brings a level of kudos and acknowledgment that comes with the commitment of the Association to Australian artists and the visual arts generally.

Collectively the members of the Association are a significant, respected and active voice in the visual art world that cannot be equalled on an individual level. Membership also provides an opportunity for established and respected gallery directors to contribute to Australian visual arts infrastructure more generally.

In addition, the benefits of membership include:

- ACGA industry liaison and advocacy on primary market issues including with government and non-government sectors, artists, the media, clients and the general public
- Regular email correspondence about current projects, important concerns raised in Board meetings, industry issues and what the Association is doing for its members
- The governance strength of the National Board of Management
- The client and industry confidence offered by the ACGA's Code of Practice and Code of Ethics
- Access to the ACGA's Chief Executive Officer who is able to assist with questions on a range of industry matters
- Inclusion on the Association's website with links to individual gallery sites
- Access to invaluable professional networks and peer expertise
- Participation in industry strategy and decision-making via regular state meetings
- Election of office-holders using member voting rights at the Annual General Meeting
- Participation in ACGA initiated projects at a local, national or international level
- Referral services – legal, financial, insurance and information technology. The ACGA has access to expert advice in many other areas. The Association endeavours to assist members via confidential referral in a wide variety of fields
- Access to educational lectures conducted or contributed to by the ACGA for members, the industry and the public on a range of arts related subjects
- Access to customised insurance coverage for commercial galleries through AON Risk Service, one of the largest insurance brokers in the world, and discounted rates
- Group advertising rates in national newspapers and in some state newspapers
- Discounted rates with various industry suppliers, including printing, transport and storage
- Assistance with implementing the GreenGallery Guide and other environmental issues

Membership Application Processes

When an individual applies or is invited to approach the ACGA, the processes operate in the following way:

1. Interested party is proposed by state members or contacts ACGA and is sent an application form
2. Application form is submitted with all required support material
3. The applicant's nomination is circulated for approval at state level
4. Subject to state approval, all members are informed of the membership nomination
5. Subject to national response, full application is viewed and presented for ratification to the National Board of Management or a nominated sub-committee of members
6. Applicant is notified of the outcome by mail.

Applicants are asked to respect that the ACGA upholds the right to reject applications in its absolute discretion and without reason.

Membership Criteria

Membership criteria include, but are not limited to:

1. The applicant must be:
 - a) the owner or substantial shareholder of a gallery that has significant commitment to the representation of living Australian artists; or
 - b) the nominated representative of that owner or shareholder on the following grounds:
 - i. The nominee must be a full-time employee-manager of the gallery; and
 - ii. The nominee must provide the written consent of the owner/shareholder provided that the nominee representatives' membership ceases when:
 1. employment of the nominee with the gallery ceases;
 2. the owner/shareholder withdraws the nomination in writing; or
 3. the owner/shareholder's gallery closes for business.
2. The applicant's gallery must have been existence for a minimum of two years
3. The applicant's gallery must be of good standing in terms of the quality of artists represented and artwork exhibited
4. The applicant must be of good repute professionally, ethically and financially

Terms and Conditions of Membership

- Membership of the Association resides in an individual, not in the Gallery
- Membership is not transferable
- Members must abide by the ACGA's Code of Ethics and Constitution

Fees

Australian Commercial Gallery Association membership fees are charged by financial year and are currently set at \$1550 (not incl. GST).

ACGA Membership Application Form

Name:

Date of application:

Gallery Name:

Gallery Address:

Gallery opening hours:

Telephone:

Fax:

Mobile:

Website:

Email address:

Support Material Required

1. Current CV or paragraph of biographical information on individual applying for membership
2. No more than 1A4 page on the aims, focus and history of the gallery
3. Complete and current list of represented artists
4. Images(JPEGS) of work or catalogue material on a range of key represented artists

Membership Application Processes

Applicants are asked to respect that for reasons of member confidentiality the ACGA upholds the right to reject applications at its absolute discretion and without reason. Letters of rejection are, in this context, necessarily brief and may not explain reasons for refusal.

Applications and Enquiries:

Please return Applications or direct enquiries to the relevant State Chair:

VIC/TAS

Catherine Asquith VIC/TAS Chair/Secretary
Catherine Asquith Gallery
48 Oxford Street
COLLINGWOOD VIC 3066
T: 03 9417 2828
M: 0438 001 482
e. enquiries@catherineasquithgallery.com or victas@acga.com.au

ACT/NSW

Stella Downer, ACT/NSW Chair
Stella Downer Fine Art
2 Danks Street
WATERLOO NSW 2017
T: 02 9319 1006
F: 02 9319 1086
M: 0402 018 283
stellart@bigpond.com or actnsw@acga.com.au

QLD

Bruce Heiser, Qld Chair
Heiser Gallery
90 Arthur Street
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006
T: 07 3254 2849
F: 07 3254 2859
M: 0418 197 929
bh@heisergallery.com.au or qld@acga.com.au

SA/NT

Karen Brown, SA/NT Chair
Karen Brown Gallery
NT House, 1-22 Mitchell Street
DARWIN NT 0801
T: 08 8981 9985
F: 08 8981 9649
M: 0403 030 325
karen@karenbrowngallery.com or sant@acga.com.au

WA

Diane Mossenson, WA Chair
Mossenson Galleries
115 Hay Street
SUBIACO WA 6008
T: 08 9388 2899
F: 08 9381 1708
M: 0413 802 899
art@mossensongalleries.com.au or wa@acga.com.au