



## AUSTRALIAN COMMERCIAL GALLERIES ASSOCIATION

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **‘FORGERIES FOCUS GROUP’ ESTABLISHED BY THE ACGA**

The Australian Commercial Galleries Association (ACGA) has established a Forgeries Focus Group (FFG) to consider ways to help counter the increasing instance of problematic works appearing on the art market.

The ACGA notes the report in the Age Newspaper today about the prosecution of a Melbourne couple for allegedly selling forged paintings reputedly by Rover Thomas. The Chair of the FFG, Mr Stephen Nall of Dickerson Gallery, believes that difficulties in achieving successful prosecutions in this area means that there is an increasing number of problematic works (fakes and forgeries) appearing on the market.

Phoebe Dunn, Chief Executive Officer of the ACGA said today: ‘The FFG has been established by members of the ACGA to consider ways to address difficulties in the current legal framework and mechanisms for dealing with stolen works, attribution issues and problematic art works. The implications of having problematic artworks in the market place and not being able to address these problems include diminishing of the market, particularly in relation to certain artists. This flows to artists (or their estates), the galleries that represent those artists, and ultimately to collectors and the general public who are being deceived by the actions of a few.’

The FFG and the ACGA are committed to taking a lead in pursuing possible solutions and working with the authorities, governments and the secondary market to tackle these issues head on.

The ACGA is committed to the ethical representation of living Australian artists.

**Contact:** Phoebe Dunn, Chief Executive Officer, ACGA: 0407 488 632