

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUMS AUSTRALIA (UAMA)
HELD ON MONDAY MARCH 23, 2015
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

At the meeting of UAMA in Perth the group welcomed new members the National Art School, Macquarie University and RMIT Gallery.

Since the establishment of UAMA there have been significant changes in the cultural landscape of Australia, and as the group has expanded its membership it has become increasingly clear that a more formal structure to manage the business of the organisation was required. Following our deliberations it was decided to elect an Executive for a period of two years to replace the system of a rotating chair for each meeting. This proposal was accepted and an Executive elected to continue the organisation's advocacy role on behalf of its membership and to maintain an ongoing operational overview of the organisation's activities. The new Terms of Reference will be confirmed by the membership at the next meeting in Adelaide in October 2015.

The group discussed a draft submission to the Australian Research Council (ARC) prepared by UQ Art Museum Director Campbell Gray. Discussion ensued about the potential for categorising exhibitions to reflect that some are more academically focused and substantial than others. The importance of separating exhibitions from publications was underscored to avoid the implication that a publication validates exhibitions and make clear that both are important. It was agreed that it is important to set benchmarks that highlight the principle that an exhibition is a complex discourse published in visual form. It was agreed that categories of exhibitions should be established that acknowledge the scale, intent and scope of exhibitions. Campbell Gray will develop a paper and gather data to submit to the ARC for feedback.

The group discussed UAMA's role within the wider visual arts ecology with invited guest Ms Julie Lomax, Director Visual Arts Strategy at the Australia Council. The group agreed to keep in regular communication with the Australia Council about its activities and to contribute to the ongoing dialogue about the development of our sector.

Ted Snell
Chair, UAMA