

Shining a light on Australian art's hidden 25%

A new website is demonstrating the importance of Australia's strong network of university art museums and documenting its contribution to Australian culture and community life.

University Art Museums Australia (UAMA) represents the nation's many university art institutions, which present a diverse exhibition program, often showcasing their extensive collections, and blending academic research with widely accessible public programs. The new UAMA website, available at uama.edu.au now, brings together new research, commentary and events from university museums throughout Australia.

Professor Ted Snell, UAMA Chair and Director of the University of Western Australia's Cultural Precinct, said, "There are currently 42 university art museums in Australia, representing 26 per cent of the Australian art museum sector. Collectively, they spend more than \$6m on new acquisitions and mount more than 250 exhibitions a year. Despite this, the contribution of university art museums as integral to the ecology of the wider cultural sector remains frequently overlooked

"University art collections offer a rich cultural history and their exhibition programs attract university staff and students, members of the art community and the general public.

"They showcase prominent and emerging Australian, Indigenous and international artists through exhibitions, acquisitions, public art commissions, publications and festivals. In contributing to the academic and cultural sectors, they demonstrate best practice in visual arts and museum research, production and community engagement.

"University art museums play a vitally important role in the education and professional practice of students who become artists, arts administrators and museum leaders."

What is UAMA ?

Established in 2008, University Art Museums Australia (UAMA) is an affiliated group of art museum professionals who each have direct responsibility for an Australian university art museum. The agreed objectives of University Art Museums Australia are:

- Research, promote and advocate on behalf of the Australian university art museum sector.
- Facilitate an exchange of ideas, information, exhibitions and staff; and occasional seminars, conferences and forums, which develop and promote the university art museum sector and build strategic links with individuals and organisations.
- Demonstrate best practice/professional standards for the sector.
- Contribute to the public understanding of the significance of university art museums to the broader Australian museums sector.

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