

ART AWARD JUDGING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy number		Version	Final
Drafted by	Tom Mosby	Approved by Board on	20 February 2019
Responsible person	CEO	Scheduled review date	

INTRODUCTION

The Koorie Heritage Trust is an inclusive space and defines its community as all Aboriginal people of South Eastern Australia, including descendants of Victorian Aboriginal communities along with anyone of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent living in Victoria, or with a meaningful relationship or history with Victoria. It is also a welcoming space for the general public and any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people visiting Victoria.

The Koorie Heritage Trust is committed to promoting, supporting and celebrating the continuing journey of the Aboriginal people of South Eastern Australia through the presentation of artistic and cultural exhibitions. For over 30 years it has facilitated the sharing of Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture with community audiences and the wider public through the exhibition of artistic works, cultural objects and historic archives. The Koorie Heritage Trust's exhibition program has fostered the careers of many emerging, mid-career and established Indigenous Victorian artists, performers, and other creative practitioners.

PURPOSE

To support the commitment to fostering the careers of emerging, mid-career and established Indigenous Victorian artists, performers, and other creative practitioners that may at times involve the presentation of an exhibition(s) that include art prize(s)/award(s) that have a dollar value.

POLICY

To avoid any conflict of interest claim in the judging process, this policy and procedures have been developed to provide guidance to the Koorie Heritage Trust in selecting judges and for the judging process itself in any art award show/exhibition.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with other policies of the Koorie Heritage Trust with particular reference to the Exhibition Policy.

PROCEDURES

- In judging an art award exhibition, 3 independent judges will be chosen by the Koorie Heritage Trust's curatorial team and approved by the CEO. At times, additional judges may be added for example where a particular sponsor may request representation on the judging panel as part of the condition of sponsorship of a particular award. In such instances, that judge will only be a judge for that particular sponsored award.
- Subject to the next dot point, the general position of the Koorie Heritage Trust is that all judges will be excluded from submitting an artwork into the exhibition to be considered for an art prize.
- There may be instances where a judge whose representation within the exhibition itself will lend a degree of prestige to the shown, may be considered eligible to enter a work as a "Guest Artist". In this instance however, the work(s) will not be eligible for any award. However, such works may be made available for sale. Where this does occur, the participation of that judge as a "Guest Artist" and his or her ineligibility for any prizes, will be made clear in any exhibition collateral including call for entry forms, room guides/catalogues, wall labels next to the work, and in all associated and relevant media and communications.
- All effort will be made to ensure that all judges are Victorian based of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent (refer however to the recruitment of additional judges as set out in the first dot point). However, this does not exclude the possibility of an Indigenous guest judge from another state or a non-Indigenous judge whose status will raise the profile of the exhibition. In all cases however, the majority of judges must be Indigenous.
- Acknowledging the close community and family relationships within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, the Koorie Heritage Trust acknowledges that it will be difficult to appoint an Indigenous judge with no connection to an exhibiting artist (whether through immediate or extended family connection, community or language group). The Koorie Heritage Trust will however brief all judges on perceived or actual conflict of interests and the judges themselves will be reminded that they have a responsibility to advise the Trust of any such conflict.
- In selecting a judge, the Koorie Heritage Trust will satisfy itself and be confident of the integrity of the judges to make an impartial judging decision free of bias.
- Being a member of the Trust Board does not in and of itself make a person ineligible to be a judge. However, all Koorie Heritage Trust employees, including the CEO, are ineligible to be a judge.
- The judging process will be a blind judging. However, it is acknowledged that more established/known artists will have a particular style that the judges will most likely recognise.
- Works will be judged for an award based on compliance with the award criteria and the quality of the work, acknowledging this is subjective according to the judging panel. However, the judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

- There may also be specific categories of awards in the one exhibition for which works will be judged, e.g. a 2D award, a photography award etc. Where there is also an overall general award, all entries will be eligible for the main open award even if an entry has already been successful in another particular award category.
- In general, and unless there is a particular set of circumstances in presenting a particular art award exhibition, all entries to an art award exhibition will be accepted for judging unless the content is likely to cause offence. What is likely to cause offence will be a decision made by the Koorie Heritage Trust's curatorial staff in consultation with the CEO and, if necessary, another Indigenous person who may be an Indigenous member of the Trust Board.

AUTHORISATION

Tom Mosby, CEO

20 February 2019