

# THE NEW ZEALAND ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

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## FORMING A COLLECTION OF ART WORK

Many of us would have the pleasure of having a few items of art work in our home, or at place of work. The chances are we keep them because we enjoy living with them, and if we have acquired this enjoyment we should be considering obtaining more items to gain even greater enjoyment. When we reach this point, we should be thinking of how to go about achieving the increased enjoyment in an orderly and economic manner.

Once we start obtaining works in an orderly manner, we become a 'Collector' to some degree, and should realize that we are not only collecting for our own enjoyment, but acting as a guardian of the cultural inheritance of future generations.

Having attained the position of a Collector, our first duty is to have the existing works recorded. One way to carry this out is to record the information we have available of the collection in an album, preferably placing one work to each page, and starting by having colour photographs taken individually of the items, and ending up with each page of the album showing a photograph, title of the work, name of artist, date executed, dimensions, where purchased, price, and leaving a space for further remarks such as current value for insurance etc.

At this stage, we should know exactly what we have in our collection and from this we are able to see more clearly in which direction we should aim towards adding to our collection. It is not important whether we should decide to collect the work of an artist we particularly like, or decide upon a thematic system, as long as we derive pleasure from our collection.

The maintenance of each work in the collection is important, whether its market value is \$10 or \$1000, as any item could become an important work at some stage in the future and special attention should be directed to the improvement of the presentation of each item in order to gain maximum enjoyment. The maintenance and improvement of presentation should be carried out with the utmost care, or part of the collection could be destroyed.

Whenever in doubt, expert advice should be sought before work commences.

The points raised above are intended as basic considerations when starting a collection and as we develop our skill we will come to the realization of how little effort and money it takes to gain a great amount of enjoyment from this civilized act.

GUY NGAN  
DIRECTOR

November, 1982.