

INVERCARGILL PUBLIC ART GALLERY

Collection Transition and Relocation
Project

Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
STEP 1: Securing and setting up a temporary gallery at 5 Don Street	3
STEP 2: Developing and fitting out an onsite storage area in the connecting NuDax building and 5 Don Street	5
STEP 3: Securing and fitting out the storage area in the Archive 2 stack at the ICLA	7
STEP 4: Undertaking an extensive condition assessment of the IPAG Collection	9
STEP 5: Digitisation of all collection records into <i>Ehive</i> - an online collection management program	11
STEP 6: Planning, packing and shifting the IPAG collection and chattels into ICLA and the NuDax space	13
FUTURE FOCUS	15

Introduction

In early 2014, IPAG's previous home, Anderson House, was closed to the public due to a failed seismic survey. Although this was upsetting and challenging for the gallery, it presented us with wonderful opportunities to review our role and responsibilities, strengthen our operational capacity, collaborate with other galleries and public collections and raise our profile in the local community – all of which we have embraced wholeheartedly.

The closure of Anderson House placed the gallery's collection of over 1000 pieces of fine and applied art in a vulnerable position. In order to ensure its ongoing accessibility and protection, IPAG was faced with securing a temporary exhibition space in the CBD, as well as a long term storage area, to house the collection until the 'Art in the Heart' project established a permanent art gallery in the inner city.

IPAG has achieved the above, with a temporary gallery up and running at 5 Don Street and a space secured at the Invercargill City Library and Archive (ICLA) to hold the majority of our collection. This booklet seeks to lay out the six steps involved in this project and give background information to those which have been completed. It also offers insight into the steps we need to progress in order to complete the long awaited relocation of our collection from Anderson House, to the Invercargill CBD.

To achieve this work we must collaborate and build strong relationships with professional and government agencies, funders and all other stakeholders. This means clearly articulating our goals and communicating our progress. Our strategic plan forms the basis of all our operations.



Top: Anderson House at Anderson Park, Invercargill
 Middle Left: *Ewan McDougall* 1 May - 31 May 2014 Hosted at The Bank Art Gallery
 Middle Right: *Perfect Match* 6 September - 19 October 2014 Collaborative Exhibition with Eastern Southland Gallery
 Bottom Left: *Annual Spring Exhibition* 4 - 29 October 2014 Hosted at City Gallery
 Bottom Right: *Southerly Aspect* 12 December 2015 - 6 March 2016 Hosted at Southland Museum and Art Gallery

Step 1:

Securing and setting up a temporary gallery at 5 Don Street

In 2016, IPAG's then manager/curator Stephen Davies, with the support of the governing board, worked to secure the old State Insurance building at 5 Don Street for an initial four week period to host a pop-up collection show called 'Central Exchange'. After a set up period which included the construction of temporary walls and the implementation of climate and security measures, the exhibition opened to an eager public. Over the coming weeks, the public's reaction both to the space and to seeing the collection again encouraged the gallery to successfully secure a two year lease for the space from the ILT. 5 Don Street has thus been IPAG's temporary home since October 2016, providing us with an important public presence. Here we've gone from strength to strength, showcasing an exciting and diverse exhibition calendar, featuring both collection-based shows and invited artists.

Exhibitions at 5 Don Street since opening

- *Central Exchange*: 24 August – 23 October 2016
- *Kids can Curate*: 29 October – 26 January 2017
- *Rob Mcleod: The Problem with Freud*: 3rd February – 22nd April 2017
- *Stephen Davies: Known/Unknown*: 28th April 2017 – 24th June 2017
- *SHE: A Celebration of Female Depiction from the Collection*: 11th July – 19th August 2017



Pictured: 5 Don Street - before and after fit out for temporary gallery

Step 2:

Developing and fitting out an onsite storage area in the connecting NuDax building and 5 Don Street

Whilst the 5 Don Street space worked well for the display of art, its limitations in regards to storage soon became apparent.

Securing the lease on the old NuDax building on Dee Street, which is connected through a rear passage to 5 Don Street was the first remedy for this. This space now provides an ideal storage area for chattels and display plinths, and has future potential to house an enclosed storage area for 3D works, whose climatic needs are less. With the announcement of the ILT plans to develop a hotel on this site, the further fit out of this space is on hold in the interim.

Unfortunately, the NuDax area does not have a stable climate, rendering it unsuitable for many of the works in IPAG's collection. This is problematic as the objective for opening 5 Don Street was to make the collection accessible again, and we cannot continue to bring art works in from Anderson House if there is nowhere to store them at the culmination of each exhibition.

A solution has been reached with the construction of an onsite store room in the back gallery of 5 Don Street, allowing works to be safely stored in a climate controlled, locked area. Although currently the gallery is using large shelving units to store wrapped artworks on, separated by sheets of corflute, this is a temporary solution. Ideally the art works would benefit from a purpose built shelving unit, from a supplier such as Hydestor. This would allow a higher number of works to be stored in the space, whilst the separate compartments would allow specific height adjustments for works, mitigating as much damage as possible.



Pictured: Collection store at 5 Don Street

Step 3:

Securing and fitting out the storage area in the Archive 2 stack at the ICLA

Although both 5 Don Street and the NuDax space offer IPAG a wonderful location to display and store a small percentage of the collection at a time, they

- a. do not offer enough space to store the entire collection under the correct climactic controls, and
- b. do not offer a long term home for the collection.

To resolve this issue, the ICC and the ICLA have generously offered IPAG a portion of space within the Archive 2 stack at the ICLA.

In order for this space to work for an art collection, the racking systems utilised to store art at Anderson House are being removed. These will then be constructed into two larger units and installed upon a raised wooden floor. As the ICLA is a paper archive, it will provide our collection with a number of controls, including temperature, relative humidity and pest management.

Storing the majority of our works in this space will also safeguard them from another move, should we have to vacate 5 Don Street before a permanent art gallery in the CBD is realised.



Top: Racking system in situ at Anderson House
 Bottom: Archive 2 stack at ICLA

Step 4:

Undertaking an extensive condition assessment of the IPAG collection.

The IPAG collection has been housed at Anderson House for sixty-six years. Although all practical measures have been taken to safeguard the collection from environmental damage, the realities of storing a collection in a residential home are easily apparent. For example, some of our works on paper are showing signs of cockling, where the paper wrinkles from a humid environment, as well as foxing, where small brown spots appear on the surface of works. Before moving these and other vulnerable works from Anderson House, a full condition assessment needs to be undertaken by a conservator in order to inform decisions around packing, transporting and future storage solutions.

As much of the IPAG collection is to be housed inside a paper archive at the ICLA, we also have a duty of care to ensure that our collection is checked for any insects such as silverfish which feast on paper. Having this work undertaken by a conservator will provide the best defence against introducing any unnecessary risk to the valuable archival material stored at ICLA.



Pictured: Manager Curator, Sarah Brown, undertaking a condition report

Step 5:

Digitisation of all collection records onto Ehive – an online collection management program

Before the collection is shifted from Anderson House, it is essential that the base records for all works are entered into Ehive, an online collection management program. This will allow us to track works as they move from Anderson House to the ICLA or to 5 Don Street, whilst also recording the new storage location of each work on arrival. This online database can be assessed by staff anywhere, at any time.

In addition to helping with the collection shift, digitisation onto Ehive will help the gallery achieve its objectives into the future. IPAG, like many regional galleries, has a hand written ledger dating back to 1970. This records basic information like accession dates, loan information, provenance and cost of purchase. In addition to this, IPAG also has boxes of paper records, several valuations completed over five year increments, condition assessments, and several sets of photographic records.

The benefits of compiling this information into one place are substantial for curatorial and legal reasons, as well as for public accessibility.

- The information provides IPAG with clear information and transparency in regards to how works have entered or left a collection, be it by a loan, bequest, or a deaccession. Contention around gifted works leaving Anderson House has been an issue of late, and having all records compiled will be essential for achieving the best outcome in these matters.
- Supplementary information, which is currently in storage, can add layers of context and cultural value to an art work. Having this information compiled will allow IPAG to better understand the works in the collection, the stories they tell and also provide the public with the most accurate information.
- Once Ehive is complete, IPAG can begin the process of letting the works 'live online', and allow those who are not physically onsite to still enjoy our collection.

Online cataloguing and publishing for cultural heritage

eHive features

Collect it. Connect it. Show it to the world!

eHive is a web-based collection cataloguing system. Our system is used worldwide by hundreds of museums, societies and private collectors to catalogue objects, store images, manage acquisition information and publish their collections online.

eHive can be accessed from any computer or device running a web browser, including PCs, Mac and mobiles. We take care of hosting and backing up your data, so your collection information is both secure and readily accessible. We also perform all of the system upgrades so any enhancements to eHive are made immediately available to you.

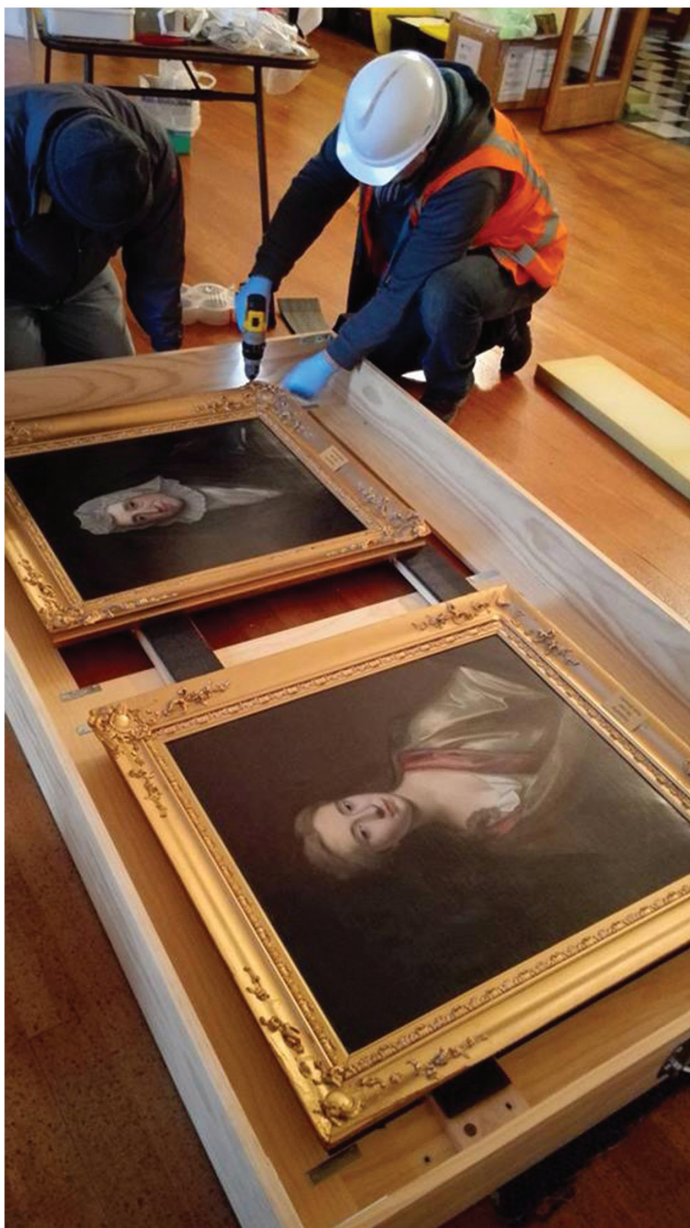
Step 6:

Planning, packing and shifting the IPAG collection and chattels into ICLA and the Nudax Space

Once the space within the ICLA is fully operational and base records are compiled onto Ehive, IPAG can begin the process of planning, packing and physically moving the remaining portion of the collection from Anderson House. The magnitude of this task cannot be underestimated. These irreplaceable artworks will be at their most vulnerable during this exercise and as such it is essential that a team of trained staff are employed.

The Sarjeant Gallery in Whanganui completed a similar project, and from this experience they recommend an average of four hours per collection item to transition (assess, record, pack, label, move, unpack, assess, record). It would therefore take approximately 4000 work hours to relocate the IPAG collection, which equates to one year of work for our current two full-time employees. This is not an achievable workload when these staff members are also responsible for maintaining a public presence within the CBD and operating an engaging exhibition calendar at 5 Don Street.

It is IPAG's hope that we will be able to employ an Assistant Project Registrar on a 12 month fixed-term contract, specifically to help facilitate both step 5 and 6.



Pictured: Former Manager/Curator, Stephen Davies, and Gallery Attendant, Ash, preparing works for transit from Anderson House

Future Focus

On the completion of the above steps, when the last work is unpacked and placed into its new home, the IPAG collection will be safely stored, both physically and digitally, for the benefit of locals and visitors to our region. Whilst this will signal the end of an era for IPAG, it will also be an important new beginning. Having our entire collection easily accessible within the CDB allows for greater opportunities in the way we curate exhibitions, as well as the potential to increase public engagement and participation.

We cannot do this alone and need community buy-in to make it happen. Whether you are a local who loves what we do, or a funder who wants to help, or a volunteer who sees a role they can play, you are all crucial to our ongoing success.

We hope you will join us on this exciting journey.



Top: Our temporary gallery 5 Don Street, open to the public

Bottom: Gallery staff (L-R): Sarah Brown - Manager Curator, Gemma Baldock - Assistant Curator/Administrator, Chris Kiddey - Gallery Attendant, Ash - Gallery Attendant, Peter Crawford - Gallery Caretaker

embrace what art can be...