

Aboriginal and Pacific Art

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August 10, 2004

Mr. Mark Taylor
General Manager, Arts and Regional
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
GPO Box 2154
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr. Taylor,

Having read the Myer report's recommendations with interest, I wish to address particularly recommendation no.5. re the introduction of *droit de suite* or the resale royalty arrangement.

As a dealer in Indigenous art and artefacts for the last thirty years, I strongly support the idea that artists and/or their community should benefit from the secondary sale of their work. In the field of Aboriginal art, the increase in prices for secondary sales – as a result of public education as well as publicity and exposure – has had limited indirect or no benefit for the artists.

If still active, their current prices **might** benefit from publicised secondary sales but in too many cases, the artists – whether active, deceased, retired or merely inactive - had no flow-on from very considerable price increases, particularly in well publicised auction sales.

I'm aware of *droit de suite* operating successfully in a number of countries and I hope that for the sake of fairness and recognition of the original owner/creator of the work of art, the Australian Government acts positively on this recommendation.

Yours sincerely,

Gabriella Roy
Director

In the light of further reflection and public debate, I wish to vary one aspect of my earlier submission.

I still strongly support the idea that secondary sales should benefit artists but, I believe the artists only should receive due financial recognition - not the community. The artist, or in the case of deceased artists, the family trust should decide any flow on effect.

Hope you can incorporate this variation, because it is important for me.

Yours sincerely,

Gabriella Roy
21/8/2004