

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

The areas of the policy are valid but I would like to see more ambition on the way to imbed the notion of centrality to culture as part of everyday life and the potential for creative practice to be elevated into playing a greater role in national identity. As a art museum curator of over 40 years practice in the public sector I wish to advocate for the importance of a dialogue between historical past creative practice and the contemporary and that museums and their collections are a vital place where this process happens. I would like to see more scope for innovation in partnership practices to enable small to medium sector cultural organisations be able to partner with each other. I believe that the power of soft power is now inadequately recognised and that the investment in Australian projects being presented internationally appears to have dramatically fallen away from the period of the 1960s - 2000's.

The blurring of distinction between craft, design and art practice is complex territory. Design practice is strong in Australia but generally falls outside most creative funding guidelines. The primacy of the artist is a very valid element of the policy but many artists absolutely rely on high level skills of others in fabrication and realisation and these skills also need to be celebrated and supported. The regional gallery sector is absolutely vital for the delivery of high quality creative practices across regional Australia and should be celebrated for their level of innovation and place based approach to programming that is integral to their practice. Smaller organisations like these should be supported in the ambition to develop international partnerships that can build a richer and more diverse expression of Australian identity beyond the major national cultural institutions.