

# ***Revealing Identity***

**Bendigo Art Gallery**

## ***Revealing Identity: The Collections of La Trobe University***

In celebration of the 50th year of La Trobe University, *Revealing Identity* takes a sweeping look through the vast University Collections. Featuring iconic works by Australia's most recognised artists, antiquities and ethnographic treasures, and teaching and archival objects, this exhibition delves into the stories behind our acquisitions and reveals the rich resource of material collected over the course of the University's life.

La Trobe University Collections consist of several categories and these are represented here across six gallery spaces. Works on display are from the La Trobe University Art Collection, Stewart E. Fraser Collection, Etta Hirsch Collection, F.M. Curtis Collection, Trendall Collection and the Ethnographic Collection.

## **La Trobe University Cultural Collections:**

### **FM Courtis Collection**

Established in the 1950s at the Bendigo Teachers College, this collection was founded as a teaching resource and a complement to student life. Fred M Courtis, lecturer and later head of art education, started acquiring works in 1955. Fine examples of Australian art have been acquired through purchases, donations and student fund-raising over the following six decades, and are displayed on campus for enjoyment and educational purposes.

### **Stewart E Fraser Poster Collection**

Emeritus Professor Stewart E Fraser was founder of the University's School of Education and forged strong connections to Asia. His interest in public health led him to collect posters, intrigued with the medium as a form of communication. This collection of more than 3000 posters is a rich resource and unique insight into art, design and methods of civic communication.

### **Trendall Collection**

The AD Trendall Centre, designed by architect Robyn Boyd, houses the world renowned Trendall Collection on the Melbourne campus at Bundoora. This active research facility was the residence of the collection's namesake Arthur Dale Trendall and remains a testament to his life's work in Classical studies. This collection consists of antiquities, a teaching collection, his entire research library and photographic archive, as well as artworks, furniture and the contents of his apartment on campus.

### **Ethnographic Collection**

Consisting of 854 items, principally of Australian Indigenous and Melanesian origin, this collection has been used as a teaching resource for the university for several decades.

## Etta Hirsh Collection

Donated to La Trobe University by the family of Etta and Manny Hirsh, this collection celebrates the art of ceramics and consists of well over 200 pieces. The Hirsh family regularly commissioned artists and were also generous contributors of paintings and works on paper.

## La Trobe University Art Collection

There are close to 2500 works from a wide variety of media in the Art Collection. Located across La Trobe University's campuses, including a sculpture park at the Melbourne campus in Bundoora, the collection is integral to the history and the environment of the University. Thanks to donors, alumni, student bodies, artists and staff, the collection has grown into a valuable resource for the University and represents a rich cultural archive for Victoria.

## La Trobe University Art Collection

In recent years, the Collection has acquired a strong representation of contemporary photographic artworks. Work of this nature provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon the way in which we see and think about ourselves, our culture and our identity.