
CHAPTER 51A

NATIONAL ART GALLERY

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CHAPTER 51A

NATIONAL ART GALLERY

An Act to establish the national art gallery of The Bahamas, to provide for the acquisition, preservation, maintenance of collections, public education to foster and encourage public interest and for matters ancillary thereto. *21 of 2003.*

[Assent 11th July, 2003]

[Commencement 16th July, 2003]

1. This Act may be cited as the National Art Gallery of The Bahamas Act. *Short title.*

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires — *Interpretation.*

“Board” means the National Art Gallery Board of The Bahamas referred to in section 10;

“Chairman” means the person appointed, under paragraph 1(2) of the Schedule, as Chairman of the Board; *Schedule.*

“collections” means any works of art vested in the Gallery by virtue of section 16 and any works of art acquired by the Gallery under the provisions of this Act;

“Deputy Chairman” means the person appointed under paragraph 1(2) of the Schedule as Deputy Chairman of the Board; *Schedule.*

“Gallery” means the National Art Gallery of The Bahamas established under section 3(1);

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for the National Art Gallery;

“Secretary” means the person appointed under paragraph 1(2) of the Schedule as Secretary of the Board; *Schedule.*

“works of art” includes paintings, drawings, engravings, prints, graphic art, photographic art, sculpture, statues and objects of cultural value.

3. (1) There shall be established a Gallery to be known as the “National Art Gallery”. *The National Art Gallery.*

(2) The Gallery shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and with power to acquire, hold and dispose of land and other property of whatever kind, to enter into contracts, to sue and be sued in its said name and to do all things necessary for the purposes of this Act.

Seal of the
Gallery.

4. (1) The common seal of the Gallery shall be kept in the custody of the Chairman or the Secretary and shall be affixed to instruments requiring the seal in the presence of the Chairman or a member of the Board designated by the Chairman and one other member.

(2) The common seal of the Gallery shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman and one other member, and such seal shall be officially and judicially noticed.

(3) All documents, other than those required by law to be under seal, made by, and all decisions of, the Gallery may be signified under the hand of the Chairman of the Board or any other member of the Board designated by the Chairman.

Keeping of
collections.

5. (1) The Gallery may take steps to acquire premises in any part of The Bahamas for the purpose of maintaining its collections in those premises and holding exhibitions of its collections in those premises, or so much of those collections as from time to time it thinks fit, and, so long as those premises are held by the Gallery, the premises shall collectively be known as the National Art Gallery of The Bahamas.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, it shall be the duty of the Gallery, as soon as practicable after it has acquired such premises as aforesaid, to keep the works of art comprised in its collections in one of those premises.

(3) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section is to be taken as precluding the Gallery from exhibiting any of the works of art comprised in its collections at any place, wherever situate, other than such premises as are mentioned in subsection (2), or from removing any of those works of art for any purpose, other than exhibition, or conservation connected with the administration of any such premises as are so mentioned or the care of its collections.

(4) Where it appears to the Gallery that any works of art comprised in its collections cannot conveniently be

kept within any such premises as are mentioned in subsection (2), the Gallery may store those works of art at such other premises, wherever situate, as appear to the Gallery to be suitable.

6. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Gallery shall have power to acquire any works of art which in its opinion it is desirable to add to its collections, or to borrow any works of art for the purpose of exhibiting such, whether those works of art are located within or outside The Bahamas.

Power of Gallery to acquire, borrow and dispose of works of art.

(2) Subject as aforesaid, the Gallery may sell, exchange, give away or otherwise dispose of any work of art vested in it and comprised in its collections if the work of art is a duplicate of another such work of art or is for any other reason not, in its opinion, required for retention in those collections.

(3) Where a work of art has become vested in the Gallery subject to any trust or condition, the powers conferred by subsection (2) shall not be exercisable as respects that work of art in a manner inconsistent with that trust or condition.

7. The functions of the Gallery shall be —

Functions of Gallery.

- (a) to secure the due administration and preservation of the collections of the Gallery;
- (b) to acquire and maintain outstanding examples of Bahamian works of art, and to maintain and exhibit such through the Gallery and other buildings serving the purpose of art;
- (c) to educate the public on various types of works of art;
- (d) to ensure the efficient operation of the Gallery;
- (e) to cooperate and assist in collating a collection of high quality works of art;
- (f) to establish a policy on the categories of works of art to be preserved in the Gallery;
- (g) to care for, preserve and add to the works of art in the collections of the Gallery;
- (h) to maintain a record relating to the collections of the Gallery;
- (i) to interact with national and international organizations concerned with setting high standards in the operation of a national art Gallery;