

### 7.2.3 MAPH FOUNDATION TRAVEL GRANT

<b>Responsible Manager:</b>	Margherita Barbante, Manager Arts and Libraries
<b>Responsible Director:</b>	Russell Hopkins, Director Community Services

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council approve MAPH's Gallery Director's international travel to Japan and Europe noting that costs are fully covered by an external grant.**

#### INTRODUCTION

The Museum of Australian Photography (MAPh) Foundation has been successful in receiving a grant from the Gordon Darling Foundation to support the MAPH Gallery Director to travel to Japan and France in June/July 2025.

#### COUNCIL PLAN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

##### **Inclusive Services**

Community development and advocacy to support the Monash community.

Deliver high performing services.

Fostering an equitable, just and inclusive Monash.

#### BACKGROUND

The MAPH Foundation is an independent Public Ancillary Fund that is set up to support MAPH's exhibitions, programs and key initiatives. The MAPH Foundation has been successful in securing an international travel grant from the Gordon Darling Foundation of \$15,000 (incl. GST) to support MAPH's Gallery Director to travel to Japan and France in June/July 2025.

#### DISCUSSION

The purpose of the travel is to support research and development of new and existing relationships with artists and contacts at key international photographic institutions.

MAPh's strategic plan prioritises and recognises the importance of increasing MAPH's standing as a destination for photography in order to grow and increase its engagement, profile and reach digitally and in-person with local, national and international audiences. MAPH seeks to provide a platform for cultural exchange, embracing the breadth of cultural heritage in Australia, and nurturing international audiences and international content for Australian audiences. This is increasingly important given MGA's re-brand to the Museum of Australian Photography (MAPh) in February 2023.

Insights gained from the trip will form an integral part of MAPH's future exhibition planning. The trip will support bringing ground-breaking exhibitions to Monash, develop reciprocal relationships with international galleries and seek to offer international engagement opportunities for Australian artists.

This year PHOTO Australia is presenting at the International Arles Photo festival, at which the Gallery Director has been invited to attend. The Arles Photography festival is one of the most important festivals globally for photography. The travel will enable the Gallery Director to connect with institutions and artists from across world in one place and will further develop MAPH's relationship with institutions in France and Japan including two institutions in Paris (Musée du quai Branly and Maison Européenne de la Photographie) and in Kyoto (KYOTOGRAPHIE) as well as other photographic arts organisations. These institutions are leaders in the global photographic community. It will greatly assist MAPH to expand the profile, reach and recognition of Australian photographic art and artists and to create accessible, thought provoking and inspiring physical and digital experiences for local, national and international audiences. It will also enable the Gallery Director to speak candidly with other directors on how to develop a vibrant, creative community and revitalise a city.

### **Indicative Itinerary 2025**

- In transit 20 - 21 June.
- 22 June – 26 June: Tokyo, Japan - visit institutions and develop relationships including Tokyo Photographic Museum, Mori Museum and Mori Arts Centre Gallery, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Gallery Koyanagi, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo and to also research into design of cultural precincts such as the Tokyo Station Gallery as well as commercial photography galleries to connect with artist representatives.
- In transit 27 June.
- 28 June – 29 June : Kyoto, Japan – meet key contacts, including the organisers of KYOTOGRAPHIE Photography festival and visit The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto Modern Art Museum.
- In transit 30 June.
- 1 July – 5 July : Paris, France - visit institutions and develop relationships, including Musée du quai Branly and Maison Européenne de la Photographie. France has a strong focus on photography. Key museums and galleries to visit include the Jeu de Paume, Galerie de Photographies at the Centre Pompidou, The BAL, Foundation Henri Cartier-Bresson, Maison de la Photographie Robert Doisneau, The Vuitton Foundation, Cartier Foundation, Pinault Foundation, Albert Kahn Museum, Magnum and outside of Paris, Centre photographique d'Ile-de-France in Pontault-Combault and Musée Français de la Photographie de Bièvres. In addition to this the commercial galleries that represent photographers will also be visited.
- In transit 6 July.
- 7 July – 12 July : Arles, France - attend the Arles International Photo Festival and meet key contacts including attending the Australian PHOTO festival exhibition and events 9-10 July.

The Gallery Director has previously travelled overseas to China and India representing MAPH. This has resulted in key outcomes in increasing its international engagement and reputation, and in delivering important outcomes for the community that reflects the international makeup and diversity of the Monash Community. For example, the Gallery Director undertook international travel to attend PHOTOFAIRS Shanghai and to meet with Chinese contacts. This resulted in a partnership with the Australia China Art Foundation, the establishment of a residency program, and an exhibition by MAPH at the PHOTO festival in Melbourne in 2024. Prior to that the Gallery Director travelled to India to accompany MAPH's first international travelling exhibition *John Gollings : the history of the built world*, which resulted in the development of a partnership with

the Museum of Art and Photography in Bangalore and the delivery of the exhibition *Visions of India* at MAPH. This was the first survey of Indian photography to be showcased in Australia.

The intent of this trip is to further develop relationships with international institutions, to bring international exhibitions to MAPH, and to develop international cultural exchanges for Australian artists.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Grant from the MAPH Foundation through the Gordon Darling Foundation will fund the Gallery Director's travel. There is no additional funding required from Council.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This travel will support Council's values and strategic objectives outlined in the Monash Council Plan 2021-25, in particular "An Inclusive Community" as well as MAPH's Strategic Plan 2022-26 and key Council strategies and plans including: The Council Plan 2021-2025; Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025; Monash Arts and Culture Strategy 2025

### **CONSULTATION**

Community consultation was not required.

### **SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Creating pathways for MAPH to deliver exhibitions and programs that embrace cultural diversity and global narratives is incredibly important for our community. As evidenced by the outcomes of previous international trips, we are able to respond to the needs of our culturally diverse community through the relationships developed with international institutions and artists. This results in strengthening our sense of community by facilitating connection and participation with diverse cultural and artistic activities, encourage community participation and recognises diversity, cultural heritage and builds social cohesion.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**


There are no human rights implications to this report.

### **GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

A GIA was not completed because this agenda item is not a 'policy', 'program' or 'service'.

### **CONCLUSION**

The MAPH's Gallery Director travel to France and Japan is fully funded by the MAPH Foundation through the Gordon Darling Foundation. The intent of this trip is to further develop relationships with international institutions, to bring international exhibitions to MAPH, and to develop



international cultural exchanges for Australian artists. It provides an opportunity for MAPH to deliver on its strategic objectives and to broaden its networks and reach that reflects the international makeup and diversity of the Monash Community. It continues the international travel opportunities afforded to MAPH previously, which has resulted in significant incoming and outgoing international touring programs and artist residencies. It will also provide significant professional development outcomes for the Gallery Director.

#### **ATTACHMENT LIST**

Nil