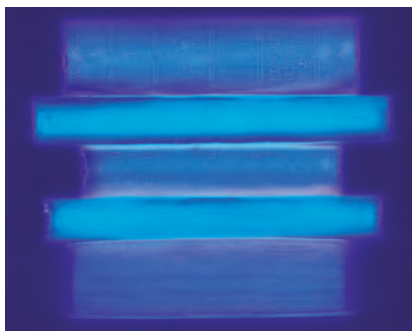


# Collections news from across the University



## VCA Art Collection

On 1 January 2007 the Victorian College of the Arts was fully incorporated as a faculty of the University of Melbourne. The VCA Art Collection therefore joins the University's 32 other Cultural Collections. The collection recently made an exciting new acquisition: *Archive*, by Penelope Davis. Davis makes moulds and casts of objects in clear resin and then places these moulds on photographic paper, exposing them to coloured light to produce a highly saturated, colour photogram. *Archive* was acquired through the generosity of the ANZ Visual Arts Fellowship Award 2007. This \$5,000 award is open annually to all final year VCA art postgraduate students. Davis joins past recipients and fellow artists, Chris Barry, Stephen Haley, Viveka Marksjo and David Ralph.

## Forthcoming exhibition: *Joe Burke's legacy: Art history's history in Melbourne*

In January 2008 the University of Melbourne will host the 32nd Congress of the International Committee of Art History: *Crossing cultures: Conflict, migration, convergence*. This major event is expected to attract over 1,000 delegates from 68 countries, with keynote speakers including the directors of Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles and the British Museum in London.

To coincide with the conference, an exhibition on art history teaching and research at the University of Melbourne will be staged in the Baillieu Library. To be curated by PhD student Ben Thomas, the exhibition will draw upon the papers of seminal figures such as Joseph Burke (the first Herald Professor of Fine Arts), Ursula Hoff, Margaret Manion, Franz Philipp, Ludwig Hirschfeld-Mack and Leonhard Adam, all held at the University of Melbourne Archives, as well as works from the University Art Collection, including the Leonhard Adam Collection of International Indigenous Culture.

## Chemistry collection returns to the University

The University recently 'repatriated' one of its collections, which had been placed on loan in 1980 with the Science Museum of Victoria (subsequently subsumed into Museum Victoria). This was a wise move at that time, as the collection was well cared for by the Museum, during a period in which the School of Chemistry did not have the space or resources to manage this historically significant material.

The School of Chemistry Collection comprises over 300 items used for chemistry teaching and research at the University of Melbourne from about the 1850s to the 1960s. It includes glassware, measuring and experimental apparatus, burners, bottles of chemicals, balances, catalogues and lecture notes. Many items are of historical significance due to their association with key figures in the history of science in Australia such as Frederick McCoy, Henry Joseph Grayson, Ernst Johannes Hartung, David Orme Masson and John MacAdam.

Since its return to the University in 2007 the collection has been in the care of the University of Melbourne Archives.

Opposite: Penelope Davis, *Archive*, 2007, lightjet print, 120.0 x 150.0 cm. VCA Art Collection, purchased through the ANZ Visual Arts Fellowship Award 2007. © Penelope Davis 2007.

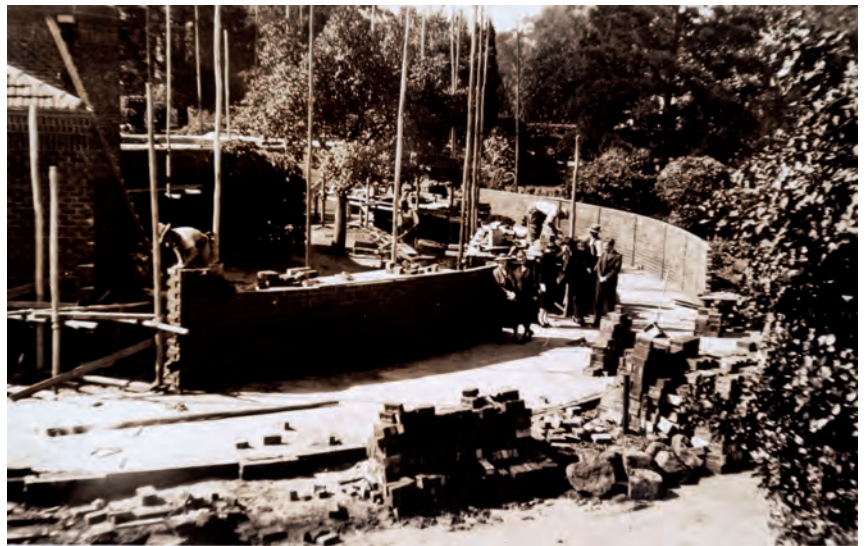
Below: Grainger Museum, construction of second stage, 2 November 1938, sepia-toned silver gelatin print, 8.5 x 14.5 cm. Grainger Museum Collection, University of Melbourne.

## Grainger Museum redevelopment

The University has allocated \$1.9 million to the conservation and refurbishing of the Grainger Museum building, which has been closed to the public since late 2003. Heritage architects Lovell Chen will supervise the conservation and repair works. Throughout the closure, the collection has been accessible to researchers through the Cultural Collections Reading Room in the Baillieu Library. On 7 December 2007 a symposium, organised by the Faculty of Music to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Grainger's birth, will be held at the Ian Potter Museum of Art. The symposium will also coincide with the Potter's season of the *Facing Percy Grainger* exhibition (25 October 2007–3 February 2008) that made its debut in 2006 at the National Library of Australia in Canberra.

## Care and conservation of Middle Eastern manuscripts

From 26 to 30 November 2007, the University's Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation will host a symposium on the care and conservation of Middle Eastern manuscripts. International and



Australian experts will speak on the conservation and handling of these important texts. The University's own significant collection of Middle Eastern manuscripts (from Special Collections in the Baillieu Library) will be highlighted and masterclasses and workshops are also part of the program. The first day's program is designed to be of general interest, and is suitable for secondary school students. To register interest, please contact Associate Professor Robyn Sloggett, Director, Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation, University of Melbourne, email [rjslog@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:rjslog@unimelb.edu.au)