Art vocabulary

Accession
This refers to the acquisition of additional property. An object is accessioned into the collection when it becomes the legal property of the gallery or museum, it is assigned a catalogue number and formal information about its provenance is noted and recorded.

Aesthetics
Refers to the sensory or emotional values or judgment of art, culture and nature. It also refers to the sense of beauty or the rules and principles defining what is 'beautiful'.

Art institution
An organisation that deals with one or more aspect of the arts.
An exhibition space that is run or organised by artists with all decisions made by them, thus bypassing the conceived restriction of public and private galleries.

Artists' cooperative
An art studio and/or gallery owned and operated by a group of artists.

Conceptual art
Art in which the concept or idea determines its form and media and usually takes precedence over the traditional aesthetic concerns and steps beyond the conventional art object.

Cultural funding
Many cultural organisations, both private and public (such as local, state and federal governments) support the development of arts and culture with grants. Examples include:
Australia Council for the Arts (www.australiacouncil.gov.au)
Arts NSW (www.arts.nsw.gov.au/FundingOpportunities.aspx)
Cultural Ministers Council (www.cmc.gov.au)
Arts Council England (www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding)

Cultural heritage
Refers to aspects of the past that are considered worthy of appreciation and preservation for the future. This includes significant physical artefacts, natural environments and abstract attributes of a group or society.

Deaccession
When a gallery or museum disposes of an object it is formally deaccessioned from the collection. This could include the process of disposing, selling or trading the object.

De-installation
A term used in relation to exhibitions. It refers to the removal not only of the artwork and its packaging, but also associated labels, panels and display devices, such as plinths.

Disseminate
To circulate or disperse something, or to cause it to become widely known.

Ephemeral art
Art that is not permanent, but has a limited time-span. Often characteristics of the media dictate its short life, eg ice in hot conditions or sand where there is wind or water.

Exhibition catalogue
A list of artworks in an exhibition that may be accompanied by prices, images, artist's statements and art writer's comments.

Installation art
Art that is, or has been, installed or arranged either by the artist or as they have specified. It can be permanent or temporary, outside or indoors, and might be site-specific. If temporary it might be documented.
Interactive art
Artwork that has components that have an effect upon one another or interact with human intervention.

Juried exhibition
An exhibition in which artworks are selected by a jury (panel of judges).

Lenders
Lenders are individuals or organisations who lend artworks from their collections.

Logistical issues
Logistics refers to the the planning, implementation, and control of the details of a project, especially the flow of goods, services, or information. In this resource logistical issues refers to the issues involved in the moving of artworks.

Mission statement
A clear and succinct representation of the organisation's purpose for existence that could include socially meaningful and measurable criteria.

Monograph
A monograph is a piece of writing, such as a book, about a single subject, such as the life and work of an artist.

Mutuality
The condition or quality of two or more things being reciprocal or having the same relationship to the other.

Narrative
The telling or retelling of a story or a series of events.

New media
Art that utilises new technologies.

Passive
Receiving or subjected to an action without responding or initiating an action in return.

Performance art
Art in which the actions of an individual or a group at a particular place and in a particular time constitute the work, thus comprising time, space, the performer's body and a relationship between performer and audience.

Policy
A plan or course of action intended to influence and determine decisions or actions.

Private or commercial gallery
A gallery that is run by those outside of the local, state or federal government. It usually relies on the sale of artworks and a profit to pay for its infrastructure although some organisations are not-for-profit.

Public program
A program of activities such as films, talks and workshops that is organised to compliment an exhibition or the mission statement of a gallery or arts institution.

Regional gallery
In NSW these are non-profit organisations that focus on the cultural life of the region in which they are situated, by way of permanent collections, temporary exhibitions and other arts programs. They are situated throughout the state in larger and smaller centres including some universities. Refer to http://www.regionalgalleries.nsw.gov.au/site/index.cfm

Registration staff
Staff of a registration department oversee all collections entering or leaving a gallery or museum. They process acquisitions and deaccessions, oversee outgoing and incoming loans.
Retrospective exhibition
An exhibition of an entire phase or representative examples of an artist's lifework.

Site-specific
Something that is created, designed or selected for a specific place or space.

Solo exhibition
An exhibition of the work of a single artist.

Survey exhibition
An exhibition that looks in detail at, or a particular aspect of, the work of one artist, theme or media.

Virtual art
Art that is created, simulated, or carried on by means of a computer or computer network.

Visual communication
The exchange of thoughts, messages, or information, that relies on vision or visual means.