

**NEWS RELEASE     Premier of New South Wales Australia**

**ISSUED:**        23 November, 1984

The Premier, Mr Neville Wran, today announced the New South Wales Government would provide a new home at Circular Quay for a major gallery of contemporary art.

Mr Wran said the Power Institute of Fine Arts would be offered accommodation in the building now occupied by the maritime Services Board at Circular Quay

The four-storey building was erected in the 1950's and commands outstanding views of Sydney Cove. It will become vacant when the RSPB. moves to new premises in the city.

Mr Wran made the announcement after discussions with the vice-Chancellor of Sydney University, Professor J.M. Ward, the Director of the Power Institute, Professor Virginia Spate, and the curators of the Power Gallery, which is now housed within the University grounds.

The Power Institute and gallery, together with its substantial collection of contemporary art, was established as a result of a bequest by Dr John Power to the University. in 1961.

Mr Wran said the offer of space in the M.S.B. building represented the fulfilment of an election undertaking by the Government in March this year.

"The Government is proud to play a part in assisting the Power Institute to fulfil Dr Power's vision of suitably housing this significant collection of contemporary art," Mr Wran said.

"It will help bring the people of Australia, and in particular New South Wales, in more direct touch with the latest art developments in other countries."

Mr Wran said the Power bequest was one of the largest endowments made to the arts in Australia.

The collection was begun in 1967 and now numbers over 3,500 items, including paintings, sculptures, prints, photography and mixed media from overseas as well as a major collection of contemporary Aboriginal art.

The Premier said the Institute envisaged occupancy of the building during 1988 once it had been suitably refurbished for use as a gallery.

Part of the premises would be retained for other organisations.

Although the Institute had originally sought to provide a gallery within the university, it had recently decided to explore the options for a more public location on a city site, with a view to combining the advantages of substantial public visibility and access, with greater proximity to the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

