

Committee Minutes

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

Edinburgh, 29 August 2003

Present:- Councillors Henderson (Convener), Fitzpatrick, Harrold (substituting for Councillor Marshall), Mr Alexander and Mrs Wright.

1 Confirmation of External Advisers on the Committee

Decision

- 1) To re-appoint Mrs Moira Knox, Mr Dickie Alexander and Mrs Eunice Wright appoint Dr Connie Byrom as external advisers on the Committee.
- 2) To review the composition of the Committee in May 2005.

(Reference – report by the Director of Culture and Leisure 20 August 2003, submitted.)

2 Minute

The minute of the meeting of 16 December 2002 was approved as a correct record.

3 Financial Statement

The balance available on the Jean F Watson Bequest was currently £47,076.49 including an estimate for the fees, as the actual fees had not yet been charged.

Decision

To note the statement of funds available.

(Reference – statement by the Director of Finance, submitted.)

4 Acquisitions for the City's Fine Art Collection

The Committee agreed as follows:-

Description	Price	Decision
Works of Art purchased at Demarco Auction	£5,600	Noted.
Oil Painting by Robert Norie (fl. 1840-50) Martello Tower, Leith – Low Water	£9,500	Purchase
Oil Painting by Hubert Vos (1855-1935) Alexander Brand, Provost of Portobello	£1,500	Purchase
Oil Painting by Philip Reeves (b. 1931) New Year	£7,000	Purchase
Print by Hazel Restall Work in Progress	£400	Purchase
Tapestry by Joanne Soroka (b. 1949) Scratching the Surface	£4,100	Purchase

(References – reports by the Director of Culture and Leisure.)

Note: Councillor Fitzpatrick declared a non-pecuniary interest in the purchase of the Oil Painting by Philip Reeves and took no part in the proceedings.

5 The National Collection Scheme for Scotland

The Director of Culture and Leisure provided details of the National Collection Scheme for Scotland (NCSS), a major new initiative for collecting contemporary art in Scotland. The NCSS was being developed in tandem by the Scottish Arts Council and the Contemporary Art Society (CAS).

It was proposed that the City Art Centre would be one of six participant museums and galleries in Scotland. The six institutions would collect contemporary visual or fine art. The museums and galleries had been selected on the basis of their existing commitment to the acquisition and display of contemporary art.

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The conditions of the scheme were:

- a contribution of £3,500 from 2003 to 2005
- a commitment to contemporary collecting
- a designated lead curator who would travel and research
- appropriate staff to care for and interpret challenging works of art

In return for three annual contributions of £3,500 from the Council, CAS would allocate £50,000 to the City Art Centre for the purchase of contemporary art during 2004 and 2005. In addition the sum of £26,000 would be available for initial purchases by the six participant museums and galleries in 2003.

CAS would co-ordinate the scheme, represent the interests of all participants and promote the scheme nationally.

It was proposed that the City Art Centre participate in the NCSS, committing an expenditure of £6,000 over a three year period from the Jean F Watson Bequest. In addition the sum of £4,500 would be committed from the Culture and Leisure Department's revenue budget for travel and research over a three year period. This would enable the Council to spend £50,000 on contemporary art over the next three years.

Decision

- 1) To approve a contribution of £2,000 from the Bequest in this and the next two financial years to enable the City Art Centre to participate in the National Collection Scheme for Scotland.
- 2) To report to the Committee, at regular intervals, on the works purchased.

(Reference – report by the Director of Culture and Leisure 21 August 2003, submitted.)

6 Date of Next Meeting

Decision

The date and time for the next meeting of the committee was agreed as 2 December 2003 at 3 pm.