

Purchase of a work by Matthew Draper

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

1 June 2004

Purpose of report

- 1 To consider the purchase of a work by Matthew Draper (b.1973).

Main report

- 2 The following 3 works are presented to the panel for consideration:

Title: **Haar**
Date: 2003
Medium: pastel on paper
Size: Image size: 88 x 140cm. Framed size: 114.5 x 163cm

Title: **Sinister**
Date: 2004
Medium: pastel on paper
Size: Image size: 79 x 122cm. Framed size: 103 x 146.5 cm

Title: **Shrouded Streets**
Date: 2004
Medium: pastel on paper
Size: Image size: 88 x 140cm.

- 3 These three large pastel drawings are drawn from a recent exhibition by Edinburgh based contemporary artist Matthew Draper. The artist was born in Staffordshire and trained at Falmouth College of Art. He has been resident in Edinburgh for some years and his most recent exhibition, 'Old Town', is his second solo show at the Open Eye Gallery.
- 4 Draper's depictions of the characteristic Old Town skyline are hauntingly beautiful. His theme is the ghostly half light of its fog-filled streets that once fired the imagination of author Robert Louis Stevenson, or which are so perfectly rendered today by Ian Rankin.
- 5 Much in the same way as French Impressionist Claude Monet concentrated on depicting buildings or scenes time and again in different seasons and times of day, so Draper has become fascinated by the changing mood and light of particular Old Town buildings. The Scotsman Hotel is one such building that recurs in this recent series.
- 6 The artist produced the works in his studio from sketches and photographs he himself took. Pastel is a difficult medium to work with, but Draper uses it to its full potential. There is a real sense of drama in these works, and they have great depth of tone, colour and atmosphere.
- 7 The prices of the works are as follows:

Haar: £2,750

Sinister: £2,250

Shrouded Streets: £2,750

The works are being sold by the artist through the Open Eye Gallery, 34 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh. Were the panel to approve a purchase, the City Art Centre would be given a discount of 10% on these prices.

- 8 Should the Committee approve a purchase, an application would be made for grant aid for up to a maximum of 50% of the cost from the National Fund for Acquisitions

Recommendations

- 9 Acquire one of the pastels by Matthew Draper



Herbert Coutts
Director of Culture and Leisure

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| Appendices | N/A |
| Contact/tel | Ian O’Riordan 0131-529 3955 |
| Wards affected | City Wide |
| Background Papers | The Jean F Watson Bequest files are held by the Museums and Arts Division |