

Purchase of work by Jane Brettle

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

28 June 2005

Purpose of report

- 1 To consider the purchase of a work by Jane Brettle

Main report

- 2 The following 2 photographic portraits are presented to the panel for consideration:

Title: **Professor Sheila McLean**
Date: 2002
Medium: Lambda Photographic Print
Size: 132 x 100cms

Title: **Professor Janet Wilson**
Date: 2001
Medium: Lambda Photographic Print
Size: 115 x 90cms

- 3 Jane Brettle was born in Bristol and has lived in Scotland since 1973. She studied Fine Art and Photography from 1969-1972 and completed a Masters degree in Photographic Practice at Northumbria University in Newcastle. She is an Associate Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Photographic Practice at Northumbria University, and has established several arts initiatives in Scotland.
- 4 Jane Brettle's photographic exhibition 'Airsides' was exhibited at the City Art Centre during the summer months of 2003. It developed from her interest in the relationship between institutional spaces and the presence

of the body in relation to gender. Her earlier works were often large scale installations made as direct interventions on and within the space of buildings. 'Airside' is her most recent project. The photographs are deliberately presented on a grand scale so as to reflect the appearance of paintings by late 18th and early 19th century artists such as Ingres, Raeburn or Reynolds.

- 5 'Airside' portrayed a diverse range of professional women throughout Britain. Many of the women are themselves pioneers – the first woman to have achieved the rank they have in their chosen profession. All of them are innovators, who are pushing back the boundaries of what women are expected or allowed or encouraged to do.
- 6 Brettle further enhanced this exploration into women in the professions by portraying them without their customary uniforms, as if to say that these women cannot be pigeonholed, that they have lives beyond their professional achievements. Professor Sheila McLean is Professor of Law and Ethics in Medicine at the University of Glasgow, and an internationally prominent scholar in this area of medical law and ethics. Professor Janet Wilson is a Consultant Surgeon based in the ENT Department at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, Professor at the University of Newcastle, and a leading authority in her field.
- 7 The images presented to the panel have been produced digitally. They are a result of a meticulous technique, and have been manipulated on the computer so that every part of the image is presented in sharp detail, unlike a normal photograph where parts of the image are out of focus.
- 8 Each photograph is priced as follows:

Framed: £2,500

Unframed: £2,000

The works are being sold by the artist. The photographs before the panel are the first edition of each work, and are destined for touring. Were the panel to approve a purchase, the artist would make a second edition for us, matched for colour, and framed in an identical manner. The City Art Centre would also apply to the National Fund for Acquisitions for grant aid towards the cost.

Recommendations

- 9 Acquire one of the photographs by Jane Brettle



Herbert Coutts
Director of Culture and Leisure

20:6:05

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