

## Purchase of works by Joyce Gunn Cairns

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### Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

28 June 2005

#### Purpose of report

- 1 To consider the purchase of works by Joyce Gunn Cairns

#### Main report

- 2 The following group of 5 portrait drawings of contemporary writers are presented to the panel for consideration:

Title: **Alexander McCall Smith**

Title: **Tessa Ransford**

Title: **David Daiches**

Title: **Joy Hendry**

Title: **Stuart Conn**

- 3 Joyce Gunn Cairns was educated at Aberdeen University and Edinburgh College of Art. She exhibits regularly – most recently at the Talbot Rice Gallery, the Royal Scottish Academy and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery – and has works in numerous public and private collections. A recent exhibition of her expressive figurative work, *Daughters of Eve*, curated jointly by the SNPG and the Highland Council, toured in the Highlands and Paris.
- 4 She has been drawing writers regularly over the last twenty years and was prompted to do so initially by her love of literature. Each of the drawings presented to the panel is only one of a series of studies. Her working method is to draw several sitters over an indefinite period. In 2004 the artist was awarded an MBE for services to the arts.
- 5 The works under consideration are presently part of an exhibition on display at the Writers Museum, until 30 July. The subjects of the works are all well known literary figures. Alexander McCall Smith is a popular author in a variety of genres. Tessa Ransford is a poet, and the former

Director of the Scottish Poetry Library. She is presently President of Scottish PEN. David Daiches is a renowned author and historian. Joy Hendry has been editor of the Chapman Literary Magazine for a number of years. Stuart Conn was Edinburgh's first 'Makar', stepping down from this position in May of this year.

- 6 Joyce Gunn Cairns is not represented at present in the Fine Art Collection. The acquisition of these works would constitute an interesting addition to the collections belonging to the City Museums and Galleries, and in particular the Writers Museum.
- 7 The works are priced at £450.00 each (unframed). They are being sold by the artist. Were the panel to approve the purchase, the City Art Centre would apply to the National Fund for Acquisitions for grant aid.

### Recommendations

- 8 Acquire up to three drawings by Joyce Gunn Cairns.



**Herbert Coutts**  
Director of Culture and Leisure

20:6:05

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