

Continuation of the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

30 November 2007

Purpose of report

- 1 To report on the continuation of the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland.

Main report

2. A report was submitted to the Committee on 29 August 2003 seeking authority to participate in the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland. This was approved and a subsequent report updating the Committee was presented at the meeting of 12 October 2006.
3. The National Collecting Scheme for Scotland was a major new initiative developed in tandem with the Scottish Arts Council and the Contemporary Art Society, in partnership with six local authority and university museums and galleries. This initiative was partly driven by the need to address the void created when SAC ceased to collect works by contemporary Scottish artists in the late 1990s. The scheme also sought to redress general cuts in purchase funds in Scottish museums and galleries in recent years. The scheme was made possible through major investment from the National Lottery through the Scottish Arts Council.
4. The six participating museums and galleries in the first phase of the scheme were the City Art Centre, Aberdeen Art Gallery, Dundee Museum and Art Gallery, the Hunterian Art Gallery in Glasgow, the Pier Gallery in Orkney, and Paisley Art Gallery. The museums and galleries were selected on the basis of their existing commitment to the acquisition and display of contemporary art.
5. The conditions of the scheme were:

- An annual contribution of £2000 towards purchases for three years from 2003 to 2006.
 - An annual contribution of £1500 towards research and travel from 2003 to 2006.
 - 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.
6. In return for three annual contributions of £2000 from the Committee, totalling £6000, £43,250 was allocated to the City Art Centre for the purchase of contemporary art during from 2003 to 2006. Ten major works or groups of works were acquired during this period, including significant works by Christine Borland, Rosalind Nashashibi, Nathan Colley and Toby Patterson. Full details of all the acquisitions are included in Appendix 1.
7. The total cost of acquiring these works was £77,200. The acquisitions attracted grant-in-aid totalling £30,296. The National Fund for Acquisitions gave £25,296 and £5000 came from the Art Fund.
8. The group of ten works, together with complementary recent acquisitions from the City Art Centre's collection, were shown in an exhibition entitled Living in the Modern World at the City Art Centre earlier this year. The exhibition attracted a number of favourable reviews. Iain Gale in Scotland on Sunday was particularly fulsome in his praise: "..... I have said many times in these pages that Edinburgh's collection is one of the finest in the country and this latest crop of acquisitions reinforces that opinion. a holding already rich in the best that Scotland has produced over the past three centuries, the collection's curators have enriched on of the finest local collections in the UK and created an invaluable adjunct to our financially beleaguered national institutions." The full review by Iain Gale and two others are attached in Appendix 2.
9. In order for the scheme to continue, the Visual Arts Department of Scottish Arts Council has allocated £50,000 in the current financial year. The existing member museums and galleries of the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland are being encouraged to apply for a portion of this money for the acquisition of new works for their collections.
10. The Scottish Arts Council's criteria for assessment and decision-making are:
- artistic quality
 - public benefit and demand
 - how the project will be managed and delivered
 - financial strength and value for money.

11. In addition, the conditions attached to the funding are broadly similar to those of the first phase of the scheme. Specifically they are:
 - The museum must be a Museums, Libraries and Archives (MLA) accredited museum (displaying and storing each work of art under the accreditation standards set by the MLA).
 - The museum must be able to prove a commitment to collecting contemporary art through its Acquisitions Policy. This in turn must include an Agreed collecting policy area for the NCSS.
 - The museum must agree that the work of art shall regularly form part of its permanent public display and shall be made accessible to the public.
 - The museum must make at least 15 days per annum available for the lead curator for the purpose of research including travel in the UK and abroad for the NCSS. Where appropriate the curator may delegate tasks related to the NCSS to other Museum colleagues.

12. Addition conditions are:
 - NCSS member museum curators will be expected to attend, and input in to, occasional group meetings organised by the NCSS Research Assistant (new partnership post between the University of Glasgow History of Art Department and the Scottish Arts Council) and attended by the NCSS lead officer from the Scottish Arts Council.
 - For the purpose of the NCSS, the lead curator must be responsible for decision making within the acquisition process.
 - The museum in receipt of funding for an acquisition, in addition to the NCSS/SAC credit of the work, must agree to promote the scheme through display, interpretation, appropriate loans, and education activity relating to the work.
 - The museum must be willing to work with the Scottish Arts Council in developing and promoting the NCSS nationally, including contributing images and updated information to the NCSS website (to be managed by the Scottish Arts Council) in order to maximise the benefit to and awareness of the general public in relation to the acquired works of art.

13. The Scottish Arts Council's deadline for applications for this funding is 14 December 2007.

14. It is proposed that the City Art Centre should continue to participate in the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland, and commit up to £4000 from the Jean F Watson Bequest in the current financial year. This will enable the City Art Centre to apply for between £8000 and £10,000 from the Scottish Arts Council funds, while also applying for grant aid from the National Fund for Acquisitions and also possibly the Art Fund. This should enable a total funding package of £18,000 to £24,000 to be assembled for the acquisition of contemporary art in the next few months.

Recommendations

15. Approve the City Art Centre's continuing participation in the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland.



22/11/07

JIM INCH
Director, Corporate Services

Appendices	Appendix 1: List of NCSS purchases Appendix 2: Press comment on Living in the Modern World exhibition including NCSS purchases
Contact/tel	Ian O'Riordan, Manager, City Art Centre, 529 3955 ian.oriordan@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	City Wide
Background Papers	The Jean F Watson Bequest files are held at the City Art Centre

Appendix 1

Continuation of the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland
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30 November 2007

List of NCSS purchases

Graham Fagen
Nothank
1999
installation and documentary
£13,125

Will Duke
We Fashioned the City on Stolen Memories
2005
computer generated animation (1 of an edition of 5) 6 mins
£2,800

Nathan Coley
Villa Savoie
1997
audio/slide installation
£9,000

Martin Boyce
Punching Through The Clouds
2004
Acid etched Brass ventilation grilles, 25x50cm, 9.8 x 19.7ins, 3 of 3 + 2 artists
proofs
£5,100

Kenny Hunter
Modern Routes
2000
screenprint
£374

Kenny Hunter
Modern Roots
2000
screenprint
£374

Christine Borland
The Velocity of Drops: Middle Ward
2003
set of 4 framed colour photographs, C-prints, edition 3/3
\$12,800 (£6,828.14)

Christine Borland
The Velocity of Drops: Operating Theatre
2003
set of 4 framed colour photographs, C-prints, edition 3/3
\$12,800 (£6,828.15)

Carol Rhodes
Town
2005
painting and drawing
£8,400

Rosalind Nashashibi
Humaniora
2003
16mm film transferred onto DVD, 12 minutes.
Edition: 1 of 3 with 2 APs
£6,300

Toby Patterson
Citrus Fruit Market
2005
Acrylic on perspex
£7,200

Rose Frain
What I brought with me
2003
photographic light-boxes
The Folding Room
2003
DVD, 8 minutes
£10,000

Appendix 2

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**Press comment on Living in the Modern World exhibition including
NCSS purchases**

1. Iain Gale
Scotland on Sunday
11 February 2007
2. Catriona Black
Sunday Herald
28 January 2007
3. Rosie Lesso
The List
1-15 February 2007