

Purchase of work by Donald White

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

30 November 2007

Purpose of report

- 1 To consider the purchase of work by Donald James White (b.1946)

Main report

2. The following drawings by Donald White are presented to the Committee for consideration:

Glengyle and Leven

Charcoal on paper.

54 x 38cms

Insc: br: Glengyle and Leven, Donald White, '81

Price: £300.00

George Square

Pencil, watercolour on paper

59.5 x 40cms

Insc: bl: Donald White '82 George Square Edinburgh

Price: £300.00

Haymarket Station

Mixed media on paper

36.5 x 48.3cms

Insc: bl: Donald White '82

Price: £200.00

Haymarket Station, Platform

Pencil, watercolour and oil pastel on paper

42 x 59.5cms

Insc: b: Haymarket, Edinburgh, Gateway to the Festival City. br: Aug '82

Price: £300.00

Tollcross, Edinburgh

Pencil on paper

58 x 82cms

Insc: bl; Tollcross Donald White br: DW (in monogram) 21/10/82

Price: £450.00

3. The City currently possesses one drawing by Donald White, a pastel of Old St. Paul's church, purchased from the artist in 1989. Donald White graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 1967, and pursued a teaching career in the North of Scotland thereafter. He has traveled extensively in Eastern Europe, and has exhibited his work in both Hungary and Poland as well throughout Scotland.
4. The artist has recently moved to Gateshead, and approached the City Art Centre earlier this year, asking if we might consider a portfolio of drawings he had produced in Edinburgh in the early 1980s. He is keen that they might be considered for the City's collection, as they depict aspects of the Edinburgh's topography which have, in most cases, changed completely since they were done.
5. This is true of thee of the five drawings presented to the Committee. The view of Tollcross was taken from the roof terrace of Goldberg's store, for many years a local landmark. The two views of Haymarket Station are reminders of how forlorn the station looked before refurbishment.
6. The remaining two drawings depict corners of the city which we easily take for granted. There is a sense of irony in the drawing of a view into George Square, where the stone built house in Buccleuch Street is dwarfed by the towering form of the David Hume Tower behind. The view entitled *Glengyle and Leven* has a timeless quality to it – but it depicts part of Edinburgh that is surprisingly not represented in the fine art collection.
7. The drawings are all modestly priced, and are being sold by the artist. If the Committee decide to purchase, an application for grant aid from the National Fund for Acquisitions would be submitted.

Recommendations

8. Approve the purchase of a group of drawings by Donald White.



22/11/07

JIM INCH
Director, Corporate Services

Appendices	None
Contact/tel	David Patterson, Curator, Fine Art, 529 3575 david.patterson@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	City Wide
Background Papers	The Jean F Watson Bequest files are held at the City Art Centre