

Jean F Watson Bequest Committee

2pm, Friday, 25 October 2013

Update on Possible Acquisitions

Item number	6.4
Report number	
Wards	All

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Coalition pledges	P31
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Executive summary

Update on proposed acquisitions

Summary

At its last meeting on 12 October 2011, the Committee gave consideration to purchasing a number of works. This report details progress in pursuing these acquisitions.

The purchase of the painting *Craighleith Quarry* by William Kidd for £4,500 has been completed with the assistance of a grant of £2,250 from the National Fund for Acquisitions.

The purchase of the object *Untitled (One Armed Snake)* by Charles Avery for £12,000 has been completed with a grant of £8,000 from Creative Scotland.

The purchase of the watercolour *The Rialto* by Arthur Melville for £120,000 has not been completed. Following applications, two offers of grants were made towards this work: £18,000 from the National Fund for Acquisitions and £6,000 from the Friends of the City Art Centre and Museums.

Also, a donation of £6,500 was made towards a significant purchase for the City Art Centre's collection following a lecture given by the Curator of Fine Art to the Edinburgh Decorative and Fine Art Society and potentially earmarked for the Melville acquisition. This makes a total raised so far of £30,500, leaving a shortfall of £89,500.

More recently an application for a grant of £36,000 was submitted to the Art Fund and considered at their meeting on 3 October 2013. This application was unsuccessful.

In the light of the above, it is suggested that an application for a grant is now made to the Heritage Lottery Fund. Simultaneously any other appropriate trusts and foundations will be approached and the Committee advised in due course of the level of shortfall.

The purchase of works by David Mach has not yet been pursued as the intention is to complete the Melville purchase first, so that multiple grant applications are not submitted in competition with each other.

At its last meeting, the Committee had decided not to purchase the recommended artwork by Karla Black, but had instructed officers to bring forward alternative works by the artist. It was considered prudent to resolve the Melville and Mach purchases before presenting alternative works to the Committee.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. notes the progress made to date and approves the above course of action.

Measures of success

Completed purchase of *The Rialto* by Arthur Melville.

Financial impact

The funds for the purchase of *The Rialto* will come from the Jean F Watson Bequest Fund, supplemented by grant aid already committed and other external funding to be sought from other sources.

Equalities impact

The actions detailed in this report are not relevant to the Equality Act 2010 general duties or human rights duties.

Sustainability impact

Not applicable.

Consultation and engagement

Not applicable.

Background reading / external references

Report entitled Edinburgh Museums and Galleries: Collections Development Policy 2013-201 to the [Culture and Sport Committee on 28 May 2013](#)

Reports to the [12 October 2011 meeting](#) of the Jean F Watson Bequest Committee

Links

Coalition pledges	P31 Maintain our City's reputation as the cultural capital of the world by continuing to support and invest in our cultural infrastructure
Council outcomes	CO20 - Culture, sport and major events – Edinburgh continues to be a leading cultural city where culture and sport play a central part in the lives and futures of citizens C025 The Council has efficient and effective services that

deliver on objectives

**Single Outcome
Agreement
Appendices**