

# Committee on the Jean F. Watson Bequest

10am, Friday, 15 November 2017

## Purchase of a print by Bronwen Sleigh

Item number	5.5
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

### Executive Summary

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Committee is asked to approve the purchase of the print *Kiyembe Lane* by Bronwen Sleigh (b.1980).

## Purchase of a print by Bronwen Sleigh

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the purchase of the print *Kiyembe Lane* by Bronwen Sleigh.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 The City Art Centre's fine art collection traces the development of Scottish art from 17<sup>th</sup> century until present day. Acquisitions of new work by contemporary artists are an important part of ensuring that the collection continues to provide a comprehensive overview of Scottish art for future generations.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 The following print by Bronwen Sleigh is presented to the Committee for consideration:

**Kiyembe Lane**

Hand coloured etching on paper, 2017

86.5cm x 86cm (framed dimensions); 76cm x 76cm (unframed dimensions)

Inscribed bottom left: 1/25; bottom right: *B Sleigh*

£920.00



- 3.2 Bronwen Sleight is a multi-disciplinary artist who takes inspiration from industrial architecture, unused and forgotten urban spaces, and environments at the edge of the city. Her work provokes an extended and considered dialogue with these spaces, which she transforms through the processes of her practice. Sleight's work explores space rather than describing it, challenging perceptions of the ordinary by presenting it in an unfamiliar way. She uses etching, lithography and drawing with a variety of media to create abstract, geometric, layered landscapes containing multiple formal elements.
- 3.3 Born in 1980 and raised in Mid-Wales, Bronwen Sleight received her BA from Glasgow School of Art and MA from The Royal College of Art, where she was selected for a six-week exchange to The University of Calgary, Canada. She has since worked for several prestigious arts organisations including The Royal College of Art, The Royal Academy Schools as a Print Fellow and at Edinburgh Printmakers as their etching technician and collaborating printer. She currently lives and works in Glasgow.
- 3.4 The artist has exhibited widely both in the UK and overseas. She has had solo exhibitions in France, Canada, USA, as well as throughout the United Kingdom. Her work is held in numerous collections around the world.

- 3.5 Bronwen is one of four artists currently exhibiting at the City Art Centre as part of the exhibition 'A Fine Line'. The artists, although working in different media, are united by detailed observation and strong draughtsmanship. For each of them drawing is a vital, daily activity. The exhibition title was chosen to suggest that the line that is sometimes perceived to exist between art and craft is in fact always fluid. The exhibition at the City Art Centre runs until 18 February 2018, and will tour thereafter to Inverness Museums and Art Gallery, and Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries. It is a partnership project between the three galleries.
- 3.6 *Kiyembe Lane* dates from 2017. Like much of her practice, it is an image based upon her direct experience of a place – often forgotten places on the edges of cities, or urban intersections – in this case in Uganda. The artist states: “*This particular etching is based on a building in Kampala, Uganda. I use my work as a way of studying the built environment and I am particularly interested in spaces which are foreign to me. I visited Kampala a little over two years ago for a non-artwork related trip but was surprised to find that the city centre was full of fascinating concrete architecture which was very different from anything else I have seen. I took the opportunity to photograph as much as I could and 'Kiyembe Lane' is one of the resulting artworks from this trip*”.
- 3.7 The acquisition of this print would strengthen our holdings of contemporary Scottish printmakers, building on the strong tradition of printmaking that goes back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is a very complex, technically ambitious print. The artist is currently not represented in the City’s collection.
- 3.8 *Kiyembe Lane* is being offered for sale directly by the artist.

#### **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 Completed purchase of *Kiyembe Lane* by Bronwen Sleight.

#### **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The total cost of the print is £920.00. Funds for this purchase can be made available from the Jean F. Watson Bequest.

#### **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 Not applicable

## **7. Equalities impact**

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7.1 Not applicable

## **8. Sustainability impact**

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8.1 Not applicable

## **9. Consultation and engagement**

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9.1 Not applicable

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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10.1 *A Fine Line*, exhibition catalogue, City Art Centre, 2017  
[www.bronwensleigh.co.uk](http://www.bronwensleigh.co.uk)

### **Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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## **11. Appendices**

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