

# Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

10am, Friday 30 November 2018

## Purchase of a cast silver bowl by Malcolm Appleby with enamelling by Jane Short

Item number	5.11
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	<a href="#">46</a>

### Executive Summary

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Committee is asked to approve the purchase of a cast silver bowl 'Hurricane 12' by Malcolm Appleby with enamelling by Jane Short.

## Purchase of a cast silver bowl by Malcolm Appleby with enamelling by Jane Short

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the purchase of a silver and enamel bowl by Malcolm Appleby and Jane Short.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 The Museum of Edinburgh has a fine collection of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century silver, made in Edinburgh and Canongate which is recognised as of National Significance by Museums Galleries Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government, but there are few pieces from the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and present day. Acquisitions of new work by contemporary silversmiths are an important part of ensuring that the collection continues to display work made in Edinburgh and its environs as part of a wider remit to collect contemporary applied art made in the city and East of Scotland and to ensure our collections remain relevant to future generations.

### 3 Main report

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- 3.1 The following item by Malcolm Appleby is presented to the Committee for consideration:

Malcolm Appleby

Bowl

*Hurricane Force 12, 2016*

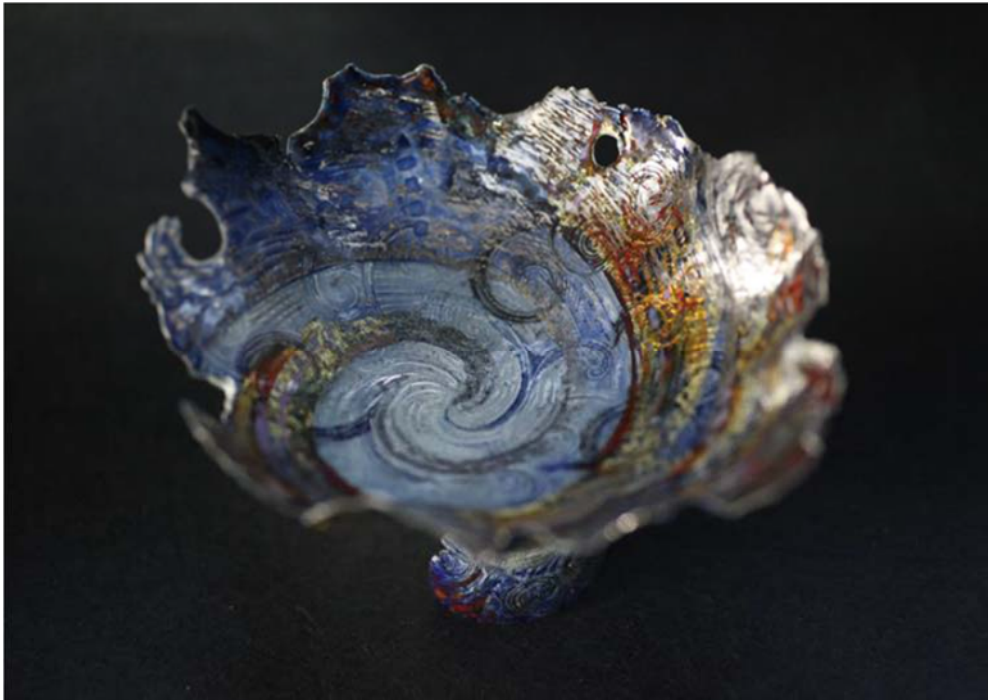
H70mm x W120mm x D100mm

Enamel and sterling silver

Cast from engraving by Malcolm Appleby with enamelling by Jane Short

Signed and dated on base Malcolm Appleby 04.11.15

£9,441 (including 10% Museum discount)



- 3.2 Malcolm Appleby was born in 1946. He studied at Beckenham School of Art, Ravensbourne College of Art, Central School of Arts and Crafts, Sir John Cass School of Art and the Royal College of Art in London. He was the Littledale Scholar at the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in 1969. He has lived in Scotland for most of his working life, where he established his first studio at Crathes in 1969.
- 3.3 Malcolm has worked at his studio at Grandtully near Aberfeldy in Perthshire since 1996. Landscape, its history and forces of nature are the backbone of his work, which is strongly influenced by the place in which he lives and works. Consequently, his pieces are often inspired by the natural world.
- 3.4 Malcom Appleby has received world-renown as an engraver, but his work encompasses a broad range of silversmithing techniques, which have evolved during his long career. His work always displays an imaginative use of line and form.
- 3.5 He has developed a method of producing casting from original engravings. These are initially created as discs which are then shaped and formed into vessels. *Hurricane Force 12* is created by this technique with the casting taken from Malcom's original engraving and has then been enamelled.
- 3.6 This piece is a collaborative work between Malcolm Appleby and enameller Jane Short MA RCA, who specialises in traditional enamel techniques applied to silver and jewellery using soft subtle harmonies of colour which reflect observations from nature. The collaborative approach means the piece is often passed back and forth between creator and enameller until the final overall effect is achieved.

- 3.7 The title of the piece *'Hurricane Force 12'* reflects its weather inspired theme. The patterns and spirals in the silver casting from Malcolm's engraving represent the eddys and gusts of wind. The whole of the base of the bowl is a vortex from which the bowls jagged edges appear to be ripped in elemental force. The foot of the bowl represents the spiralling of a tornado as the storm drags the air upwards.
- 3.8 The enamelling enhances the depictions of a raging storm, with the colours echoing those of a rain-washed stormy in blues greys and with splashes of electrifying metallic colour.
- 3.9 This piece would be a fine addition to our developing contemporary collection and would represent one area of Malcom Appleby's wide range of work and his collaborative approach to creating pieces with other artists. It is proposed that this piece would sit alongside a small cup also being presented at this meeting and these would also form the basis of developing a small collection of objects and jewellery to represent the range of his work.
- 3.10 Malcolm Appleby's solo and museum exhibitions include - 2016 *Malcolm Appleby at 70* at the Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh; 2015 *The Silversmith's Art* at the National Museum Scotland; 2014 *Passing it On* at the Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh; 2012 *Malcolm Appleby Maker* at the Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh; 2008; *Silver Made in Scotland* at the National Museum Scotland, 2006 Malcolm Appleby *Precious Statements* at Goldsmith's Hall, London and 1996 *Malcolm Appleby Designer and Engraver* at Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum. In 2000 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters by Heriot-Watt University, and was awarded an MBE for services to had engraving and heritage crafts in 2014, receiving the Lifetime achievement award from the Hand Engravers Association of Great Britain in 2015.
- 3.11 Commissions have included work for the V&A Museum, the Royal Armouries Museum, the National Museum Scotland, Perth Art Gallery and Museum, the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, St Giles Cathedral Edinburgh, Bute House and 10 Downing Street.
- 3.12 The bowl is being purchased as part of a wider initiative to collect more contemporary material for our applied art collections of silver, glass and East Coast Ceramics. The bowl will be displayed in the Silver Gallery at the Museum of Edinburgh

## 4 Measures of success

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- 4.1 Completed purchase of silver and enamel bowl by Malcolm Appleby.

## 5. Financial impact

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- 5.1 The piece is being purchased from the Scottish Gallery Edinburgh, who have a long association with showing Malcom's work. The full cost of the piece is £10,490. The gallery is offering a 10% museum discount which reduces the price to £9,441.

- 5.2 Funds for this purchase will come from the Jean F Watson Bequest, and it is intended that an application for grant aid will be the National Fund for Acquisitions

## **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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None.

**Paul Lawrence**

**Executive Director of Place**

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## **11. Appendices**

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None.