

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

10am, Friday 30 November 2018

Purchase of a glass vase by Choi Keeryong

Item number	5.8
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	46

Executive Summary

Committee is asked to approve the purchase of a glass vase 'Korean Glass 2' by Edinburgh based glassmaker Choi Keeryong.

Purchase of a glass vase by Choi Keeryong

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the purchase of a glass vase '*Korean Glass 2*' by Choi Keeryong.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Museum of Edinburgh has a fine collection of glass made in the city and its surrounding areas. Mostly dating from the 19th and 20th centuries and made at the *Holyrood Glassworks* and the *Edinburgh and Leith Glassworks* (which later became Edinburgh Crystal). The collection also includes some late 20th century studio pieces, including work by engravers such as Allison Kinnaird and Norman Orr, and glassmakers Paul Musgrove and John Lawrie. The collection is recognised as of National Significance by Museums Galleries Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government.
- 2.2 As part of the redisplay of our glass gallery at the Museum of Edinburgh in 2018, the collection was enhanced by pieces by engraver Alison Geissler and glassmakers Jessamy Kelly and Dominic Fondé, but pieces by modern and contemporary glassmakers are still underrepresented. Acquisitions of new work by contemporary glassmakers will ensure 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

- 3.1 The following item by Choi Keeryong is presented to the Committee for consideration:

Choi Keeryong - Glass Vase

Title: '*Korean Glass 2*', made in 2017,

£1,620 (including 10% Museum discount)



- 3.2 Choi Keeryong is originally from South Korea and trained in ceramics and metal smithing. He moved to Scotland in 2006 where he started working with glass during his Masters at Edinburgh College of Art.
- 3.3 In 2010 he started his PhD research in glass and developed the 'inlaid colouring' technique that is significantly inspired by the ancient Korean ceramic technique 'Sanggam'. In shape and form the pieces also draw on his Korean heritage and are influenced by Korean design.
- 3.4 After completing his studies Choi continued working with glass during his time as Artist in Residence at the college. Choi is still based in Edinburgh where he continues working as a glassmaker and visiting lecturer at Edinburgh College of Art.
- 3.5 Many artists come to Edinburgh to work and study and Edinburgh has a long tradition of welcoming artists from all over the world. The result of this shared knowledge and experience is often to create designs which are influenced by different cultures and the shared knowledge of different manufacturing techniques.
- 3.6 The combination of blown glass and the locally manufactured porcelain elements reflect Choi's experience in coming to study, live and work in Scotland and the juxtaposition between British pottery and Korean glass.
- 3.7 This piece was made in 2017 and included shaped and mould-blown glass within which is the opaque effect of white ceramic. The piece also has been gilded to add a layer of decoration to an otherwise elegant, austere piece of simple and exquisite form.
- 3.8 Choi has exhibited his work throughout Europe, including at the Scottish Gallery in Edinburgh and Contemporary Applied Arts in London.
- 3.9 The vase is being purchased as part of a wider desire to collect more contemporary material for our applied art collections of silver, glass and East Coast Ceramics. The vase will be displayed in the newly redisplayed Glass Gallery at the Museum of Edinburgh.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Completed purchase of glass vase by Choi Keeryong

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The piece is being purchased from the Scottish Gallery Edinburgh. The full cost of the piece is £1,800. The gallery is offering a 10% museum discount which reduces the price to £1,620.
- 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

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Not applicable.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 https://scottish-gallery.co.uk/artist/choi_keeryong
- 10.2 <https://www.creativescotland.com/explore/read/stories/design/2016/showcasing-at-scotland-craft-And-design-pavilion-choi-keeryong>

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Helen Edwards, Curator (Applied Art)

E-mail: helen.edwards@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4097

11. Appendices

None.