

Committee Minutes

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

Edinburgh, 28 June 2005

Present:- Councillors Henderson (Convener), Attridge, Mrs Aitken, Hunter, Longstaff; Mr Alexander, Dr Byrom and Mrs Wright.

1 Minute

The minute of the meeting of 1 June 2004 was approved as a correct record.

2 Financial Statement

The balance available on the Jean F Watson Bequest for 2005/2006 was currently £73,377.07 including an estimate for fees, as the actual fees had not been charged.

Decision

To note the financial statement.

(Reference – financial statement by the Director of Finance, submitted).

3 Acquisitions for the City's Fine Art Collection

The Committee agreed as follows:-

Description	Price	Decision
Painting by Sir Henry Raeburn (1756-1823) Portrait of Sir James Stirling	£40,000	1. To note that the sum of £15,000 had been raised towards the purchase of the painting.

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		2. That the balance of the purchase price of £25,000 be met from the Jean F Watson bequest.
Photographic portraits by Jane Brettle Portrait of Professor Sheila McLean Portrait of Professor Janet Wilson	£2,500 £2,500 (framed)	1. To purchase the portrait of Professor Sheila McLean 2. To apply for grant aid from the National Funds for Acquisitions.
Portrait Drawings by Joyce Gunn Cairns Portrait of Alexander McCall Smith Portrait of Tessa Ransford Portrait of David Daiches Portrait of Joy Hendry Portrait of Stuart Conn	£450 each (unframed)	1. To purchase the five portraits. 2. To apply for grant aid from the National Funds for Acquisitions.
Works by David Forster For the Thorns and Bushes ... And a High Wind Blew Over the ... And Yet in the Midst ...	£1,150 £ 750 £ 750	1. To purchase: (a) For the Thorns and Bushes ... (b) And Yet in the Midst ... 2. To apply for grant aid from the National Funds for Acquisitions.

(References – reports (4) by the Director of Culture and Leisure, submitted).

4 Purchase of Works at Demarco Auction

The Convener ruled this item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, urgent in order that it be considered timeously.

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At an auction to raise money for the Demarco European Art Foundation, under delegated authority, the following works by Richard Demarco had been purchased:

Bridge on the Union Canal 2003	£320.00
Bridge on the Union Canal, Ratho 2003	£340.00
Traverse Theatre, James Court, Lawnmarket	£200.00
Edinburgh Castle and Flodden Wall	£210.00
Swanston and the Pentlands 1992	£200.00
Arthur's Seat, St Anthony's Chapel	£500.00
Prestonfield House 1992	£300.00
 Total	 £2,070.00

Decision

To note the purchase of the works by Richard Demarco.

(Reference – report by the Director of Culture and Leisure, submitted).

5 Purchase of Work at WASPS Studios

The Convener ruled this item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, urgent in order that it be considered timeously.

At an opening following the successful purchase of the Patriothall complex of WASPS studio in Stockbridge in 2004, the Lord Provost had reserved a painting by one of the resident artists. The painting, as follows, was purchased under delegated authority:

Gerald McGowan (b1949)	£450.00
Cafeteria, 2004	

Decision

To note the purchase of the work by Gerald McGowan.

(Reference – report by the Director of Culture and Leisure, submitted).

6 Purchase of Work through the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland

The Convener ruled this item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, urgent in order that it be considered timeously.

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At its meeting on 29 August 2003 the Committee agreed to the City Art Centre's participation in the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland. The City Art Centre being one of six museums and galleries in Scotland working in partnership with the Contemporary Art Society to purchase challenging contemporary visual and applied art for Scottish collections. It was also agreed that reports on the works purchased would be brought to Committee at regular intervals.

The first work had been purchased as follows:

Graham Fagen (b1966)
Nothank (1999)
Installation and documentary

The work was bought through the Edinburgh contemporary art gallery, Doggerfisher, for £13,112 including a 12.5% discount of the original price of £15,000. The work was paid for from funds available through the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland. At that time, £47,000 had been available for purchases through this scheme.

Decision

To note the purchase of the installation Nothank by Graham Fagen through the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland.

(References – minute of the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest of 29 August 2005 (item 5); report by the Director of Culture and Leisure, submitted).

7 Possible Commission by David Mach

The Convener ruled this item, notice of which had been given at the start of the meeting, urgent in order that it be considered timeously.

The Committee was asked to consider the possible commission of a work by David Mach to commemorate the granting of the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh to Aung San Sui Kyi.

Details were provided of the artist, the type of work he undertakes and the estimated cost (£18,000).

Commissioned works were not eligible for grant aid through the National Fund for Acquisitions.

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Decision

- 1) To authorise continued negotiations with the artist.
- 2) To explore potential external avenues of funding.
- 3) To report further to a future meeting of the Committee on the outcomes.