

## Purchase of works by David Forster

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### Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

28 June 2005

#### Purpose of report

- 1 To consider the purchase of works by David Forster (b.1967)

#### Main report

- 2 The following 3 works are presented to the panel for consideration:

Title: **For the thorns and bushes lay hold of them as  
it were with hands, and there they stuck fast  
and died miserably.**

Date: 2003

Medium: acrylic on paper

Title: **And a high wind blew over the land, and the  
clouds flew...**

Date: 2005

Medium: acrylic on gesso on board

Title: **And yet in the midst of the sky there was still a  
bit of blue.**

Date: 2005

Medium: acrylic on gesso on board

- 3 The three paintings before the panel formed part of an exhibition of David Forster's work at the Merz Gallery in Broughton Street. David Forster lives and works in Edinburgh. He has been exhibiting since the late 1980s, both in Britain and in France. He has been the recipient of a number of awards and is represented in public and private collections
- 4 Forster's painting is founded on close observation and a meticulous painting technique. He deliberately chooses parts of the city that are well away from the normal tourist routes – Oxgangs, Dumbiedykes, or Craigmount. The paintings confront the viewer with aspects of the city which normally are passed by. They are strangely disquieting, for even though they all bear the stamp of human presence, there are no people shown.
- 5 The artist has said of his work "The buildings are a product of the accumulation of ideas over the centuries, and the other traces on the landscape are an integral part of evolving nature".
- 6 Of the paintings submitted to the panel for consideration, two are of views in Oxgangs, the other of a street corner in Craigmount. They capture aspects of Edinburgh's architecture that are familiar to everyone, from the stone built bungalows so much a feature of Edinburgh's suburbs to the terraced properties of Oxgangs.
- 7 The prices of the works are as follows:

**For the thorns and bushes...** £1150.00

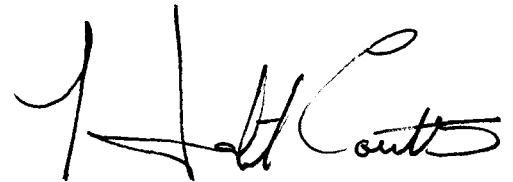
**And a high wind blew over the...** £750.00

**And yet in the midst....** £750.00

The works are being sold by the Merz gallery on behalf of the artist. Were the panel to approve the purchase, an application would be made to the National Fund for Acquisitions for grant aid. The Fine Art Collection does not at present possess any comparable views of the city.

### **Recommendations**

- 8 Acquire the large painting of Craigmount and one of the two smaller works by David Forster.



**Herbert Coutts**  
Director of Culture and Leisure

20 : 6 : 05

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<b>Appendices</b>	N/A
<b>Contact/tel</b>	Ian O’Riordan 0131-529 3955
<b>Wards affected</b>	City Wide
<b>Background Papers</b>	The Jean F Watson Bequest files are held by the Museums and Arts Division