

Commission of a portrait by David Mach

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

12 October 2006

Purpose of report

- 1 To report on the commissioned portrait of Aung San Suu Kyi by David Mach.

Main report

2. At the Jean F Watson meeting in June 2005, a report was submitted concerning the possible commission of a portrait of Aung San Suu Kyi by David Mach to commemorate the granting of the Freedom of the City. At the time, having spoken to the artist, he said that the normal selling price for his large scale postcard portraits was £18,000. The Committee welcomed the idea, but instructed officials to continue negotiations with the artist, to try and seek other possible external sources of funding, and then to report back.
3. Following the meeting, a number of conversations were held with the artist. Having reflected on the proposal, and because he very much supported the action the City had taken, the artist indicated that he would like to do the portrait for cost price - £5,000. At the time of his offer, he indicated that he could begin straight away, and so after consultation with a number of the Committee members, Mach was given permission to proceed. Assistance was given to him to source an appropriate photograph of the Burmese leader.
4. The finished work is presented to the panel. It is the third work by David Mach to enter the City's collection, and is perhaps the most significant. The work was formally unveiled in June of this year at a ceremony attended by the artist and a former prisoner and bodyguard of Aung San Suu Kyi. The central portrait is framed by a collage of political prisoners, some of whom our guest was able to identify as being still in captivity. Looking further ahead, it is hoped to find a suitable site for the portrait within the new Council Headquarters building.
5. The price of the portrait is £5000 plus approximately £500 for framing.

Recommendations

6. Note the completion of the commissioned portrait by David Mach.



Herbert Coutts
Director of Culture and Leisure

5:10:06

Appendices	N/A
Contact/tel	Ian O'Riordan 0131 529 3955 David Patterson 0131 529 3575
Wards affected	City Wide
Background Papers	The Jean F Watson Bequest files are held by the Museums and Arts Division