

Purchase of a painting by Hugh Buchanan

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

16 March 2009

Purpose of report

- 1 To consider the purchase of a painting by Hugh Buchanan (b.1958).

Main report

2. The following paintings by Hugh Buchanan are presented to the Committee for consideration:

Feldspar Urns and Radiator at Lauriston Castle

Watercolour on paper

76 x 56cms

Price: £7,500

Feldspar Urns and Radiator II at Lauriston Castle

Watercolour on paper

76 x 56cms

Price: £6,500

3. Hugh Buchanan was born in Edinburgh in 1958 and educated at Edinburgh College of Art. He currently lives in East Lothian. After completing post-graduate studies in 1981, he was awarded travel scholarships to the Middle East and North Italy and the Balkans and he has travelled regularly throughout Europe ever since. Over several years he worked on commissions for the National Trust and in 1987 was invited by the Prince of Wales to paint a series of interiors of Balmoral, subsequently completing a further sequence at Highgrove in 1994. In 1988 he was commissioned by the House of Commons to paint four interiors in the Palace of Westminster.
4. Hugh Buchanan's paintings are in the Collections of, among others, HM The Queen, HRH Queen Elizabeth the late Queen Mother, HRH The Prince of Wales, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the University of

Edinburgh, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Flemings Bank, Deutsche Bank, and the National Trust for Scotland. In 2002 he was commissioned by the House of Lords to paint the lying in state of the Queen Mother at the Palace of Westminster. In 1998 five works by Buchanan were included in the exhibition *Princes as Patrons: The Art Collections of the Princes of Wales from the Renaissance to the Present Day* shown at the National Museum and Gallery, Cardiff. In 2005/6 his paintings featured in *Watercolours and Drawings from the Collection of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother*, at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh and Queen's Gallery, London.

5. In 2007 David Scarratt, Manager of Lauriston Castle, invited Hugh to consider a painting of the interior of the property. On an initial visit, Hugh made a number of sketches, and in consultation opted for three different subjects. Of the three completed paintings, one has already been sold, leaving the two which are brought before the Committee.
6. Libraries, drawing rooms and the ornate interiors of stately homes have been the consistent subject matter for Buchanan for more than thirty years. An accomplished watercolour painter, his paintings evoke a sense of peaceful grandeur and timelessness, capturing the spirit of the times in which the buildings were first conceived. Increasingly, his work has focused on corners of rooms, on library bookshelves, or on particular architectural features.
7. The paintings under consideration depict two compositions of the same elements, namely three large feldspar urns sitting on a table top in one of the Castle rooms. The paintings are being sold on behalf of the artist by the Francis Kyle Gallery in London. The prices include a gallery discount. Should the Committee approve the purchase of one of the works, an application for grant aid would be submitted to the National Fund for Acquisitions. The City Art Centre already has one work by Buchanan, a lithograph of the Royal High School on Calton Hill.
8. Should the Committee approve the purchase of a painting, the artist has offered to gift to the City Art Centre the four large preliminary pencil studies.

Financial Implications

9. The funds for the purchase of the painting will come from the Jean F Watson Bequest. Grant aid will be sought from the National Fund for Acquisitions administered by the National Museums of Scotland.

Environmental impact

10. N/A

Recommendations

11. Approve the purchase of a painting by Hugh Buchanan.
12. Accept the generous gift of the four drawings.


JIM INCH
Director, Corporate Services

Appendices	None
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Wards affected	City Wide
Background Papers	The Jean F Watson Bequest files are held at the City Art Centre