

Committee Minutes

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

Edinburgh, 16 March 2009

Present:- Councillors Elaine Aitken, Brock, Buchan, Dawe, McIvor and Wilson.

1 Appointment of Convener

Decision

To appoint Councillor Brock as Convener of the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest.

2 Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of 30 November 2007 was approved as a correct record.

3 Financial Statement – Funds Available for 2008/09

The balance of funds available on the Jean F Watson Bequest for 2008/09 was £58,333.70.

Decision

To note the financial statement.

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

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4 Status of the Jean F Watson Trust

Esmond Hamilton (Fund Accounting Manager, Finance Department) advised that the Council was currently reviewing all of the 118 Trust funds it administered, including the Jean F Watson Bequest.

In order to comply with the requirements of the Scottish Charity Regulator, in future years there would be a requirement for the Jean F Watson Bequest to provide a Trustees report and set of financial accounts.

The report and accounts could either be submitted for approval to the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest or the Pensions and Trusts Committee.

Decision

- 1) To agree that the Trustees report and financial accounts should be submitted for approval to the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest.
- 2) To ask the Director of Finance to submit a report on this matter to the next meeting of the Committee; the report to include, amongst other things, the obligations of the Trustees.

5 Inventory of Items Acquired Through the Jean F Watson Bequest

An inventory of all the works that had been purchased for the City Art Centre's collection using funds from the Jean F Watson Bequest had been prepared at a cost of £1,620.

The work was undertaken over the summer of 2008, by a freelance curator, Miranda Appleby.

The complete list includes 933 works and both paper and electronic copies were held at the City Art Centre.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Director of Corporate Services.
- 2) To note that Ian O'Riordan would send a paper copy of the list to all the elected members on the Committee.

(References – report by the Director of Corporate Services 6 March 2009, submitted.)

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6 Appointment of External Advisers

The Committee had previously noted that the officials, in consultation with the Convener, would nominate two external members to the Committee and report the nominations to this meeting.

Decision

To note that invitations had been extended to two external advisers and that it was hoped the nominations could be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

(Reference – Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest 30 November 2007 (minute item 3).)

7 Acquisitions for the City's Fine Art Collection

The Committee gave consideration to purchasing the undernoted works and agreed as follows:-

Description	Price	Decision
<p>7.1 Paintings by Hugh Buchanan (b1958)</p> <p>Feldspar Urns and Radiator at Lauriston Castle Watercolour on paper</p>	<p>£7,500</p>	<p>1) To approve the purchase.</p> <p>2) To apply for grant aid from the National Fund for Acquisitions.</p> <p>3) To accept the generous gift from the artist of four large preliminary pencil drawings.</p>

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Description	Price	Decision
<p>Feldspar Urns and Radiator II at Lauriston Castle Watercolour on paper</p>	£6,500	<p>4) That Councillor Brock, on behalf of the Committee, write to the artist thanking him for the gift.</p> <p>Not to proceed with the purchase.</p>
<p>7.2 Paintings by Alan Shipway (b1956)</p> <p>Grey Spring Acrylic on Canvas</p> <p>Last Month Acrylic on Canvas</p> <p>Sea Change Acrylic on Canvas</p> <p>Night Fall Acrylic on Canvas</p>	<p>£3,000</p> <p>£3,000</p> <p>£3,000</p> <p>£2,750</p>	<p>Not proceed with the purchase.</p> <p>1) To approve the purchase.</p> <p>2) To apply for grant aid from the National Fund for Acquisitions.</p> <p>Not to proceed with the purchase.</p> <p>Not to proceed with the purchase.</p>
<p>7.3 Paintings by Iain Robertson (b1955)</p> <p>Just Pleasure Oil on Canvas</p> <p>Poco Loco Oil on Canvas</p>	<p>£3,000</p> <p>£3,000</p>	<p>Not to proceed with the purchase.</p> <p>Not to proceed with the purchase.</p>

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Description	Price	Decision
<p>Jig Oil on Canvas</p>	<p>£3,000</p>	<p>1) To approve the purchase.</p> <p>2) To apply for grant aid from the National Fund for Acquisitions.</p>
<p>7.4 Works by Victoria Crowe (b1945)</p>		
<p>Beech Tree, Winter Oil on Board</p>	<p>£5,000</p>	<p>1) To approve the purchase.</p> <p>2) To apply for grant aid from the National Fund for Acquisitions.</p> <p>3) To accept the generous gifts from the artist of the suite of prints and the additional painting "Dancer and Graffiti".</p> <p>4) That Councillor Brock, on behalf of the Committee, write to the artist thanking her for the gifts.</p> <p>(See note below).</p>

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Description	Price	Decision
<p>Start of the Day Charcoal and Conté on Paper</p>	£3,500	Not to proceed with the purchase.
<p>7.5 Set of Six Paintings by William Highet</p> <p>The Royal Mile, Edinburgh Acrylic on Board</p>	£25,000	<p>1) To approve the purchase.</p> <p>2) To apply for grant aid from the National Fund for Acquisitions.</p>

Note: The decision to purchase “Beech Tree Winter” was approved by 4 votes to 2; the 2 votes cast were in favour of purchasing “Start of the Day”.

(References – reports (5) by the Director of Corporate Services 6 March 2009, submitted.)

Declaration of Interests

Councillor Buchan declared a non-financial interest in item 7.5 above as his grandmother owns a shop on the Royal Mile.

Councillor McIvor declared a non-financial interest in item 7.5 above as he lives on the Royal Mile.

8 National Collecting Scheme for Scotland - Update

The Committee on 30 November 2007 had approved the City Art Centre’s continuing participation in the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland.

Approval was sought for the City Art Centre to continue to participate in the scheme and commit up to £4,000 from the Jean F Watson Bequest in the current financial year and an additional £4,000 in the next financial year, should the scheme continue to be financially supported by the Scottish Arts Council in 2009/10.

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Details were provided of the works acquired through the scheme since the Committee's last meeting in November 2007.

Decision

To approve the City Art Centre's continuing participation in the National Collecting Scheme for Scotland.

(References – Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest 30 November 2007 (minute item 6); report by the Director of Corporate Services 6 March 2009, submitted.)