

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

10am, Friday 30 November 2018

Purchase of a silver beaker by Malcolm Appleby

Item number	5.10
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
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Executive Summary

Committee is asked to approve the purchase of a silver beaker with gilt interior by Malcolm Appleby.

Purchase of a silver beaker by Malcolm Appleby

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the purchase of a silver beaker by Malcolm Appleby.

2. Background

The Museum of Edinburgh has a fine collection of 18th and 19th century silver, made in Edinburgh and Canongate which is recognised as of National Significance by Museums Galleries Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government, but there are few pieces from the late 20th century and present day. Acquisitions of new work by contemporary silversmiths are an important part of ensuring that the collection continues to display work made in Edinburgh and its environs as part of a wider remit to collect contemporary applied art made in the city and East of Scotland and to ensure our collections remain relevant to future generations.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The following item by Malcolm Appleby is presented to the Committee for consideration:

Malcolm Appleby

Silver Engraved Beaker, 2015

Britannia silver with gilt interior

H48mm x W40mm

£7,186.50 (including 10% Museum discount)



- 3.2 Malcolm Appleby was born in 1946. He studied at Beckenham School of Art, Ravensbourne College of Art, Central School of Arts and Crafts, Sir John Cass School of Art and the Royal College of Art in London. He was the Littledale Scholar at the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in 1969. He has lived in Scotland for most of his working life, where he established his first studio at Crathes in 1969.
- 3.3 Malcom has worked at his studio at Grandtully near Aberfeldy in Perthshire since 1996. Landscape, its history and forces of nature are the backbone of his work, which is strongly influenced by the place in which he lives and works. Consequently, his pieces are often inspired by the natural world.
- 3.4 Malcom Appleby has received world-renown as an engraver, but his work encompasses a broad range of silversmithing techniques, which have evolved during his long career. His work always displays an imaginative use of line and form.
- 3.5 This piece displays visible hammer marks on its surface, which has become a feature of some of his work, enabling the process which creates the piece to become an integral feature of the final product. These hammer marks have then been enhanced with fine engraved lines, which draw the eye to the surface and create a glittering effect.
- 3.6 The interior silver of the interior has been pleated and then gilded, with the interior being as much a part of the finished design and the exterior. It is a piece which exhibits some of Malcom's wide-ranging techniques as a silversmith and designer.

- 3.7 This piece would be a fine addition to our developing contemporary collection and would represent one area of Malcom Appleby's range of techniques. It is proposed that this piece would sit alongside the enamel bowl 'Hurricane Force 12' also being presented at this meeting and these two pieces would also form the basis of developing a small collection of objects and jewellery to represent the range of his work.
- 3.8 Malcolm Appleby's solo and museum exhibitions include: 2016 *Malcolm Appleby at 70* at the Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh; 2015 *The Silversmith's Art* at the National Museum Scotland; 2014 *Passing it On* at the Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh; 2012 *Malcolm Appleby Maker* at the Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh; 2008; *Silver Made in Scotland* at the National Museum Scotland, 2006 Malcolm Appleby *Precious Statements* at Goldsmith's Hall, London and 1996 *Malcolm Appleby Designer and Engraver* at Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum. In 2000 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters by Heriot-Watt University, and was awarded an MBE for services to engraving and heritage crafts in 2014, receiving the Lifetime achievement award from the Hand Engravers Association of Great Britain in 2015.
- 3.9 Commissions have included work for the V&A Museum, the Royal Armouries Museum, the National Museum Scotland, Perth Art Gallery and Museum, the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, St Giles Cathedral Edinburgh, Bute House and 10 Downing Street.
- 3.10 The beaker is being purchased as part of a wider desire to collect more contemporary material for our applied art collections of silver, glass and East Coast Ceramics. The beaker will be displayed in the Silver Gallery at the Museum of Edinburgh.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Completed purchase of silver beaker with gilt interior by Malcolm Appleby.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The piece is being purchased from the Scottish Gallery Edinburgh, who have a long association with showing Malcom's work. The full cost of the piece is £7,985. The gallery is offering a 10% museum discount which reduces the price to £7,186.50.
- 5.2 Funds for this purchase will come from the Jean F. Watson Bequest, and it is intended that an application for grant aid will be the National Fund for Acquisitions.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Equalities impact

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Sustainability impact

8.1 Not applicable.

9. Consultation and engagement

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Background reading/external references

None.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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11. Appendices

None.