

# Notice of meeting and agenda

## Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

**10.30 am Friday, 28th August, 2020**

Virtual Meeting - via Microsoft Teams

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend

### Contacts

Email: [veronica.macmillan@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:veronica.macmillan@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Tel: 0131 529 4283

## 1. Order of business

---

- 1.1 Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

## 2. Declaration of interests

---

- 2.1 Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

## 3. Deputations

---

- 3.1 If any

## 4. Minutes

---

- 4.1 Minutes of the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest – 7 February 2020 - submitted for approval as a correct record 5 - 8

## 5. Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest Business

---

- 5.1 Jean F. Watson Financial Statement 2019/20 – Joint Report by the Executive Director of Place and the Executive Director of Resources 9 - 14
- 5.2 Purchase of three unique digital prints by Rachel Maclean – Report by the Executive Director of Place 15 - 22

## 6. Motions

---

- 6.1 If any

### Laurence Rockey

Head of Strategy and Communications

## Committee Members

---

Councillors Councillor Catherine Fullerton (Convener), Councillor Robert Aldridge, Councillor Karen Doran, Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan, Councillor Max Mitchell, Councillor Joanna Mowat, Councillor Gordon Munro and Councillor Susan Rae

## **Information about the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest**

---

The Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest consists of 8 Councillors and is appointed by the City of Edinburgh Council.

### **Further information**

---

If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Veronica MacMillan, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, Business Centre 2.1, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG, Tel , email .

The agenda, minutes and public reports for this meeting and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol).

### **Webcasting of Council meetings**

---

Please note this meeting may be filmed for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site – at the start of the meeting the Convener will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1998. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy including, but not limited to, for the purpose of keeping historical records and making those records available via the Council's internet site.

Any information presented by you to the Council at a meeting, in a deputation or otherwise, in addition to forming part of a webcast that will be held as a historical record, will also be held and used by the Council in connection with the relevant matter until that matter is decided or otherwise resolved (including any potential appeals and other connected processes). Thereafter, that information will continue to be held as part of the historical record in accordance with the paragraphs above.

If you have any queries regarding this, and, in particular, if you believe that use and/or storage of any particular information would cause, or be likely to cause, substantial damage or distress to any individual, please contact Committee Services on 0131 529 4106 or [committee.services@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:committee.services@edinburgh.gov.uk).

This page is intentionally left blank

## Minutes

### Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

10.00am, Friday 7 February 2020

#### Present

Councillors McNeese-Mechan (Appointed Convener in the absence of Cllr Fullerton), Aldridge, Doran, Mitchell, Mowat, Munro and Rae.

#### In attendance

Mr Stephen Holland (Chair of the Friends of the City Art Centre).

#### 1. Appointment of Convener

---

##### Decision

To appoint Councillor McNeese-Mechan as Convener in the absence of Councillor Fullerton.

#### 2. Minutes

---

##### Decision

To approve the minute of the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest of the 7 February 2020 as a correct record.

#### 3. Jean F. Watson Financial Statement 2019/20

---

Details were provided on the financial position of the Miss Jean Fletcher Watson (known as Jean F. Watson) Charitable Trust since the last Committee meeting on the 18 November 2018.

##### Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To agree that officers would provide information on the return on investment for the Jean F Watson Bequest and to ensure that this information was included in future reports to the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest.

(References – Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest, 18 November 2018 (item 2); joint report by the Executive Director of Resources and the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

#### 4. Purchase of two paintings by James Lumsden

---

Committee considered two paintings that were part of a current exhibition at the City Art Centre. *Beneath the Surface* featured work by 9 contemporary artists based in Scotland.

Approval was sought to purchase two paintings by James Lumsden – *Fugue* (17/11) and *Fugue* (30/11).

##### **Decision**

To approve the purchase of two paintings by James Lumsden – *Fugue* (17/11) and *Fugue* (30/11).

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

#### 5. Purchase of three paintings by Eric Cruikshank

---

The City Art Centre's fine art collection traced the development of Scottish art since the 17<sup>th</sup> century until the present day. Acquisitions of new work by emerging contemporary artists were an important part of ensuring that the collection continued to provide a comprehensive overview of Scottish art for future generations.

Committee were asked to approve three untitled paintings by Eric Cruikshank.

##### **Decision**

To approve the purchase of three untitled paintings by Eric Cruikshank.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

#### 6. Purchase of a painting by Michael Craik

---

Committee considered a painting by Michael Craik for purchase. Craik's work was concerned with colour, material quality and process. He produced acrylic paintings on both aluminium and wooden panels and also worked in the medium of watercolour on paper.

Approval was sought to purchase the 2019 painting *Vestige 2019\_45* by Michael Craik.

##### **Decision**

To approve the purchase of the 209 painting *Vestige 2019\_45* BY Michael Craik.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

#### 7. Purchase of a portfolio of prints from Edinburgh Printmakers

---

Earlier this year Edinburgh Printmakers reopened at Castle Mills in Fountainbridge after a multi-million pound restoration project. This was accomplished with support from the City of Edinburgh Council. Edinburgh Printmakers was an important part of the cultural life of the city, and the staff at the City Art Centre believed this was an opportune moment to celebrate the range of work produced by this unique resource, as well as adding a selection of new artists to the city's art collection.

Approval was sought for the purchase of a portfolio of prints by a range of local artists from the recently opened Edinburgh Printmakers.

### **Decision**

To approve the purchase of a portfolio of prints by a range of local artists from the recently opened Edinburgh Printmakers.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

## **8. Purchase of items using designated funds August – November 2019**

---

In order to purchase relatively low value items for the developing collection of contemporary applied art, it was agreed by the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest on the 15 December 2017 that a sum of £5,000 per annum would be allocated for credit card purchases which could be used to purchase items directly from makers and galleries. These items would form part of the Edinburgh Museums and Galleries collections, either a part of the reserve collections or to be displayed in the Museum of Edinburgh or in future exhibitions.

Committee were asked to note the credit card purchase of five items of glass and ceramics purchased between August and November 2019. They were purchased using allocated funds from the Jean F Watson bequest.

### **Decision**

- 1) To note the credit card purchase of five items of glass and ceramics purchased between August and November 2019 which were purchased using allocated funds from the Jean F Watson bequest.
- 2) To agree that officers would investigate the possibility of using the display cases in reception and on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the City Chambers, and the display cases in reception at Waverley Court, to display the purchases of items made using the designated funds.

(Reference – report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

This page is intentionally left blank



# Committee on the Jean F. Watson Bequest

**10.30am, Friday, 28 August 2020**

## **Jean F. Watson Financial Statement 2019/20**

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

### **1. Recommendations**

---

- 1.1 Members of the Committee on the Jean F. Watson Bequest are asked to note the content of this report.

**Stephen S. Moir**

Executive Director of Resources

Contact: John Aghodeaka, Accountant

E-mail: [john.aghodeaka@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:john.aghodeaka@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 5348

# Report

## Jean F. Watson Financial Statement 2019/20

### 2. Executive Summary

---

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the financial position of the Miss Jean Fletcher Watson (known as Jean F. Watson) Charitable Trust (SC018971) since the last Committee meeting on 7 February 2020. A more detailed report, including commentary on investment performance, will be provided after the completion of audit work and the approval of the 2019/20 Charitable Trusts Accounts by the Finance and Resources Committee.

### 3. Background

---

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee with the financial position of the Jean F. Watson Charitable Trust.
- 3.2 The Committee last met on 7 February 2020 when a financial statement was included which provided an expected out-turn position for the 2019/20 financial year.

### 4. Main report

---

- 4.1 Appendix 1 of this report provides an update on the provisional 2019/20 outturn financial position of the Trust as well as providing a forecast for the 2020/21 financial year. Audit work for the 2019/20 accounts is still on-going and the accounts are yet to be approved by the Finance and Resources Committee.
- 4.2 Appendix 1 shows that the funds available at the start of the 2020/21 financial year were £127,845 and are forecast to be £149,006 by the end of the 2020/21 financial year. This is subject to investment income remaining stable for the remaining quarters of the financial year.
- 4.3 If the recommended acquisitions were to be approved, and the purchases completed by 31 March 2021, the revised forecast funds available by the end of the 2020/21 financial year will be £125,470.

- 4.4 The value of the investments held by the Trust as at 31 March 2020 was £949,598 and the value of the artwork was recorded as £5,373,974.

## **5. Next Steps**

---

- 5.1 Members of the Committee on the Jean F. Watson Bequest are asked to note the content of this report.

## **6. Financial impact**

---

- 6.1 There is no direct financial impact arising from the contents of this report, but it sets out the financial position of the Jean F. Watson Charitable Trust, with investment income exceeding governance costs allowing the on-going expansion of the Edinburgh Museums and Galleries collections.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

---

- 7.1 The Jean F. Watson Charitable Trust continues to serve its purpose and purchase works of art by artists who have connections with the city of Edinburgh.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

---

- 8.1 [‘Charitable Trusts Reserves Policy’](#), Finance and Resources Committee, 17 March 2016
- 8.2 [‘Miss Jean Fletcher Watson Bequest’](#), OSCR Website
- 8.3 [Guidance and good practice for Charity Trustees’](#), OSCR Website

## **9. Appendices**

---

Appendix 1 – Jean F. Watson Committee Financial Statement 2019/20

|  | £        | £               | Notes    |
|--|----------|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Funds Available as at 1 April 2019</b>        |          | <b>128,623</b>  | <b>1</b> |
| Income from Investments 2019/20                  | 31,412   |                 | <b>2</b> |
|  | <hr/>    | <b>31,412</b>   |          |
| Net Acquisitions 2019/20                         | (29,149) |                 | <b>3</b> |
| Governance Costs 2019/20                         | (3,041)  |                 | <b>4</b> |
|  | <hr/>    | <b>(32,190)</b> |          |
| <b>Funds Available as at 1 April 2020</b>        |          | <b>127,845</b>  |          |
| Forecast Income from Investments 2020/21         |          | <b>31,224</b>   | <b>5</b> |
| Net Acquisitions 2020/21                         | (2,072)  |                 | <b>6</b> |
| Forecast Governance Costs 2020/21                | (7,990)  |                 | <b>7</b> |
|  | <hr/>    | <b>(10,063)</b> |          |
| <b>Forecast Funds Available by 31 March 2021</b> |          | <b>149,006</b>  | <b>8</b> |

**Notes :**

- 1** £128,623 is the accumulated surplus carried forward from previous years.
  - 2** £31,412 represents the income from interest on investments held with CCLA and M&G, as well as a small amount from the bank account.
  - 3** Acquisitions made in 2019/20 are listed in the table 1 below, approved by the Committee on 26 September 2019. Total acquisitions in 2019/20 were £56,580 and total grant aid received was £27,430.
  - 4** The governance costs covers audit fee. In addition there was central support costs of £2686 for 2019/20 but the payment was not made as at year-end and had to be carried forward to be paid in 2020/21.
  - 5** The forecast income from investments in 2020/21, subject to market conditions, is £31,224.
  - 6** The total acquisitions already made in 2020/21, approved by the Committee on 7 February 2020, is £18,214 and total grant aid received was £9,107. A refund of £7,035 is expected from Edinburgh Council for over-reimbursement of artwork purchases paid for in the previous year.
  - 7** The forecast governance costs (audit fee and central support costs) are £7,990 for 2020/21. This includes central support costs of £2686 brought forward from 2019/20.
  - 8** The forecast funds available by 31 March 2021 are £149,006.
- If the recommended acquisitions were to be approved and the purchases completed by 31 March 2021 the revised Forecast Funds Available, as shown in table 2 below, will be £125,470 (or £109,780 without NFA grants).
  - The value of the investments held by the Trust as at 31 March 2020 was £949,598. The value of the artwork was recorded as £5,373,974.
  - Audit work for the 2019/20 Charitable Trusts Accounts is still on-going and the accounts are yet to be approved by the Finance and Resources Committee.

**Table 1**

**Acquisitions made in 2019/20**

| <b>Name of Artwork</b>                  | <b>Name of Artist</b>             | <b>Financial Year</b> |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Suite of Photographs</i>             | David Eustace                     | 2019/20               |
| <i>Three Photograph Artworks</i>        | Kevin McCollum                    | 2019/20               |
| <i>The Schism – Final Diagnosis</i>     | Edwin G. Lucas                    | 2019/20               |
| <i>Glass vase 'Korean Glass 2'</i>      | Choi Keeryong                     | 2019/20               |
| <i>Hammer raised Silver Beaker</i>      | William Kirk                      | 2019/20               |
| <i>Silver Beaker with gilt interior</i> | Malcolm Appleby                   | 2019/20               |
| <i>Cast Silver Bowl 'Hurricane 12'</i>  | Malcolm Appleby                   | 2019/20               |
| <i>3 Bowls &amp; A Vase</i>             | V.Higginson, R.Hunter & G.Burnett | 2019/20               |
| <i>Ceramic Teapot</i>                   | Tricia Thom                       | 2019/20               |

**Table 2**

**Revised Forecast Funds Available**

|  | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>          |
|--|-------------|-------------------|
| <b>Forecast Funds Available by 31 March 2021</b>         |             | <b>149,006.45</b> |
| <b>Recommended Acquisitions:</b>                         |             |                   |
| Three digital prints by Rachel Maclean                   | (36,975.00) |                   |
| Carriage   | (2,251.86)  |                   |
|  |             | (39,226.86)       |
|  |             | 109,779.59        |
| <b>Grants (if awarded)</b>                               |             | 15,690.74         |
| <b>Revised Forecast Funds Available by 31 March 2021</b> |             | <b>125,470.33</b> |

This page is intentionally left blank

## Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

10.30am, Friday, 28 August 2020

### Purchase of three unique digital prints by Rachel Maclean

Executive/routine  
Wards  
Council Commitments

#### 1. Recommendations

---

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the purchase of three digital prints by Rachel Maclean (b.1987).

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

Contact: David Patterson, Curatorial and Conservation Manager

E-mail: [david.patterson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:david.patterson@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 529 3955

# Report

## Purchase of three unique digital prints by Rachel Maclean

### 2. Executive Summary

---

- 2.1 Committee is asked to approve the purchase of three unique digital prints by Rachel Maclean (b.1987).

### 3. Background

---

- 3.1 The City Art Centre's fine art collection traces the development of Scottish art from the 17<sup>th</sup> century until present day. Acquisitions of new work by emerging contemporary artists are an important part of ensuring that the collection continues to provide a comprehensive overview of Scottish art for current and future generations.
- 3.2 Rachel Maclean is one of the most talked about and sought after contemporary Scottish artists. Born and trained in Edinburgh, she now has an international reputation. The city does not possess any examples of her work. We would be the first public collection to purchase works from her most recent series, *Native Animals*, which deals with the UK's forthcoming departure from the European Union.

### 4. Main report

---

- 4.1 The following digital prints by Rachel Maclean are presented to the Committee for consideration:

#### **Disunion**

Digital print, 2019

60.9 x 91.4cms

Edition of one

£9,775 (including 15% museum discount)



## **Green and Pleasant Land**

Digital print, 2019

91.4 x 152.4cms

Edition of one

£13,600 (including 15% museum discount)

## **Apparition**

Digital print, 2019

152.4 x 91.4cms

Edition of one

£13,600 (including 15% museum discount)



**Disunion**, 2019, digital print, 60.9 x 91.4cms.



Green and Pleasant land, 2019, digital print, 91.4 x 152.4cms



Apparition, 2019, digital print, 152.4 x 91.4cms



- 4.2 Rachel Maclean was born in Edinburgh and studied Drawing and Painting at Edinburgh College of Art from 2005 to 2009. Since then she has risen to become one of the most celebrated and sought after Scottish based artists. She received the Margaret Tait award at the Glasgow Film Festival in 2013 and was selected for the 2014 programme of exhibitions GENERATION: 25 years of Contemporary Art in Scotland. She works in many different media, and over the last 10 years she has shown her work in galleries, museums, film festivals and television throughout the world. Within the last two years alone she has had solo exhibitions in France, Australia, Greece, China, New Zealand, Israel, Germany and the USA. She currently lives and works in Glasgow.
- 4.3 In 2014 the Travelling Gallery, whose staff are based at the City Art Centre, gave Rachel the opportunity to present 'I HEART SCOTLAND', and she transformed the gallery into a colourful tableau where her satirical prints were displayed against the background of a huge, hand-painted, Union Jack. The gallery toured across Scotland, and her work proved particularly popular among the many schools the gallery visited. She featured again in 2018 when the Travelling Gallery celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an exhibition at the City Art Centre.



Rachel installing *I Heart Scotland* in the Travelling Gallery, 2014

- 4.4 In 2017 Rachel was chosen to represent Scotland at the Venice Biennale where she presented a new film entitled *Spite Your Face*. At the same time disturbing and beguiling, the film offered a powerful critique of contemporary political rhetoric in which the concept of 'truth' is used and abused to advance personal, corporate or political influence. The presentation cemented Maclean's growing reputation as an artist.

- 4.5 Often saturated with alluring colour, Maclean's works suck the viewer into a world which promises them much but then repels with unsettling themes and narratives. Until recently, she has been the only actor in her films and prints, exploring issues of identity, class and gender. We can see many references in her work, but most significantly from children's literature, pop culture and film.
- 4.6 The three digital paintings under consideration are part of a larger series of works, entitled *Native Animals*, which Maclean produced for her first solo exhibition in New York at Arsenal Contemporary, in 2019. The exhibition was due to travel to Germany in March this year, but the showing there was cancelled due to the current pandemic. At the moment, they are in storage in Arsenal Contemporary's warehouse in Montreal.
- 4.7 The exhibition was described in the following way by the gallery in its promotional literature: "*Native Animals* cloaks itself in traditional narratives and images of British identity to discuss the contemporary political climate. The characters..... recall the stories on which British children are raised, such as *The Wind in the Willows*, and an idyllic agrarian lifestyle put forward by landscape painters such as Gainsborough and Constable"
- 4.8 The overall narrative of *Native Animals* concerns 'Brexit', the UK's forthcoming exit from the European Union. Each character in the story, from a porcine union-jack doting politician to a phone-addicted white cat, stand as archetypes in the debate. In *Disunion*, amorphous figures clad in the colours of the British Union Jack and French tricolour fight over a large, blood-stained flag, seemingly ignorant and uncaring of the bloodied bodies that lie strewn across the foreground and the small inflatable boat (a reference to the many migrants seeking to cross the English Channel) from which they have been thrown.
- 4.9 *Apparition* is just as disturbing. A gargantuan figure bedecked with a union-jack top hat and coat rises from a bonfire like a grotesque genie. Draped in a sash that reads 'Hop off home' and surrounded by mysterious eyes that emerge from the darkness, his message is clear. The little mouse-like figures around the fire seem entranced by him and what he offers.
- 4.10 Compositionally, *Green and Pleasant Land* is divided into two very different halves. On the right, two patriotically dressed figures (a squirrel and a fox in a setting which echoes Gainsborough's famous double portrait *Mr and Mrs Andrews*) gaze at a painting being worked on. It shows a fertile, green hillside, hedges and a sturdy oak tree. The bushes nearby them and even the sky above seem in complete harmony with this idyll they have created. So captivated are they, the fox and squirrel appear blind to the reality beyond, where the artist has depicted a minefield bounded by barbed wire, blood-soaked corpses and three figures hanging from a burnt-out tree. Maclean has created a world which combines *Alice in Wonderland* with an apocalyptic horror movie.

- 4.11 The City Art Centre does not currently own any works by Maclean. She is represented in major public collections throughout the United Kingdom and internationally, including The British Council, The Arts Council Collection, the Government Art Collection, Scottish National Galleries, National Gallery of Australia in Canberra and Kunsthalle zu Keil in Germany. These works could not be more appropriate to the current situation as the UK moves towards exiting from the European Union at the end of 2020.
- 4.12 The three prints were chosen in collaboration with the artist to reflect different aspects of the overall *Native Animals* narrative. The prints are being offered by Arsenal Contemporary on behalf of Rachel Maclean. They are fine art pigment prints, drymounted and then framed using non-reflective glass. They have been made in an edition of one, although the artist has made an artist's print (A/P) for her personal archive and for touring purposes.

## 5. Next Steps

---

- 5.1 If the acquisition of these artworks is approved, it is intended that an application for grant aid will be submitted to the National Fund for Acquisitions, and to the Friends of the City Art Centre and Museums. Consideration will also be given to an application to The Art Fund.

## 6. Financial impact

---

- 6.1 The costs are as follows:
- 6.1.1 The three digital prints are being offered for sale at a total price of £36,975. This includes a museum discount of 15%. Funds for this purchase will come from the Jean F Watson Bequest, and it is intended that an application for grant aid will be submitted to the National Fund for Acquisitions, and to the Friends of the City Art Centre and Museums. Consideration will also be given to an application to The Art Fund.
- 6.1.2 An estimate has been obtained from a specialist art handling company for transporting the works from Montreal to Edinburgh. The price is 3,819.56 Canadian Dollars (£2,251.86 based on exchange rates on 2 July 2020).

## 7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

---

- 7.1 Not Applicable.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

---

- 8.1 Rachel Maclean's web site: <http://www.rachelmaclea.com/>.
- 8.2 Interview with the artist: <https://vimeo.com/217730442>.
- 8.3 Short feature on the Tate website: <https://www.tate.org.uk/context-comment/articles/rachel-maclea-art-now>.
- 8.4 Interview about her most recent work, including *Native Animals*: <https://vimeo.com/392442377>.

## **9. Appendices**

---

- 9.1 None.