

Minutes

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

2.00 pm, Thursday 2 February 2023

Present

Councillors Walker (Convener), Fullerton, Heap (substituting for Councillor Rae), McNeese-Mechan, Meagher, Mitchell, and Thornley.

In attendance

John Aghodeaka (Accountant, Corporate Services), Karl Chapman (Head of Service, Heritage, Cultural Venues, Museums and Galleries, Place), David Patterson Curatorial and Conservation Manager, Place) and Helen Scott (Curator, Place).

1. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest of 17 December 2021 as a correct record.

2. Jean F. Watson Financial Statement 2020/22 and Forecast 2022/23

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 17 December 2021.

Decision

- 1) To note the report.
- 2) To circulate briefing note to the members providing information about the investments which had been made.

(Reference - report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)

3. Approval of the 'City of Edinburgh' Prize at the Inaugural Scottish Landscape Awards Exhibition

Approval was sought for the offer of 'The City of Edinburgh' prize at the inaugural Scottish Landscape Awards exhibition at the City Art Centre.

Decision

- 1) To approve the of 'The City of Edinburgh' prize at the inaugural Scottish Landscape Awards exhibition at the City Art Centre.
- 2) That if any of the members were to find out about any relevant art networks, to contact David Patterson (the Curatorial and Conservation Manager)

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

4. Purchase of an Oil Painting by Steven Campbell

Committee was asked to approve the purchase of the oil painting *Portrait of the Lost Travelogue Writer* (2006-2007) by Steven Campbell (1953-2007).

Decision

- 1) To approve the purchase of the oil painting *Portrait of the Lost Travelogue Writer* (2006-2007) by Steven Campbell (1953 - 2007).
- 2) That the next meeting of the Committee should be in person, to allow the members improved viewing of the artwork.

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

5. Purchase of Two Photographs by Sekai Machache

Committee was asked to approve the purchase of the photographs *A Hint of Blue I* and *A Hint of Blue II* by Sekai Machache (b.1987).

Decision

To approve the purchase of the photographs *A Hint of Blue I* and *A Hint of Blue II* by Sekai Machache (b.1987).

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

6. Purchase of a Group of Works by Will Maclean

Committee was asked to approve the purchase of a group of works by Will Maclean (b.1941) and accept the gift of a suite of 12 screen prints produced by Maclean in partnership with Scottish author and poet John Burnside.

Decision

- 1) To approve the purchase of a group of works by Will Maclean (b.1941). The group comprised *Mariner's Museum / Taxonomy of Tides* (2014); *De Bestis Marins (For Simon Lewty)* (2014); and *Gaelic Text* (2015). The latter two works were produced collaboratively with English based artist Simon Lewty (1941-2021).
- 2) To accept the gift from the artist of *A Catechism of the Laws of Storms* (2015), a suite of 12 screen prints produced by Maclean in partnership with Scottish author

and poet John Burnside.

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

7. Purchase of Three Artworks by Leena Nammari

Committee was asked to approve the purchase of three artworks by Leena Nammari (b. 1970) – *Remembered Places, Places Remembered: Arches* (2013), *Remembered Places, Places Remembered: Tower* (2013) and *Before long ago became long ago* (2020).

Decision

- 1) To approve the purchase of three artworks by Leena Nammari (b. 1970). The artworks are: *Remembered Places, Places Remembered: Arches* (2013), *Remembered Places, Places Remembered: Tower* (2013) and *Before long ago became long ago* (2020).
- 2) To arrange for members to visit the Art Centre to view the all the art works which had been discussed.
- 3) To emphasise the need to meet in person to view the art works being considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

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