

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

10.00am, Friday, 7 February 2020

Purchase of items using designated funds August – November 2019

Executive/routine

Wards

Council Commitments [46](#)

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the credit card purchase of the five items of glass and ceramics purchased between August and November 2019. They were purchased using allocated funds from the Jean F Watson Bequest.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Report

Purchase of items using designated funds August – November 2019

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report highlights credit card purchases made between August and November 2019. They were purchased using allocated funds from the Jean F Watson Bequest.

3. Background

- 3.1 In order to purchase relatively low value items for the developing collection of contemporary applied art, it was agreed by the Jean F Watson Sub-Committee on [15 December 2017](#) that a sum of £5000 per annum would be allocated for credit card purchases which could be used to purchase items directly from makers and galleries. These items will then form part of the Edinburgh Museums and Galleries collections, either as part of the reserve collections or to be displayed in the Museum of Edinburgh or in future exhibitions.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The following items have been purchased by credit card at a total cost of £753 (see appendix for additional information and images):
- 4.1.1 Glass vase and bowl by Edinburgh glassmaker Vicky Higginson. Vase: £290, Small bowl £70;
 - 4.1.2 Ceramic vase by Gavin Burnett, £145;
 - 4.1.3 Ceramic bowl by Robert Hunter £28; and
 - 4.1.4 Ceramic teapot by Tricia Thom £220.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Objects have been added to collections.

6. Financial impact

- 5.1 These pieces have been purchased at a total cost of £753. Funds for these purchases come from the Jean F Watson Bequest.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Information on pieces purchased.

INFORMATION ON PIECES PURCHASED

Glass base and bowl by Edinburgh Glassmaker, Vicky Higginson

Vicky Higginson's work combines hot glass hand blown glass with cold working techniques of cutting, carving and engraving to create vessels and sculptural works which explore the relationships between form, pattern and colour. Vicky Higginson began working with glass during a degree in 3D Design at Manchester Metropolitan University and then went on to complete a Masters in Glass at the University of Sunderland in 2011. Since then she has been living and working in Edinburgh and has undertaken residencies at the University of Sunderland, North Lands Creative, Cesty Skla in the Czech Republic and Edinburgh College of Art. Higginson's work is influenced by her interest in Japanese and Scandinavian design. Her recent work has explored some of the properties of glass, working with layers of colour, pattern, texture and transparency.



Ceramic vase by Gavin Burnett, Fife

Gavin Burnett trained at Edinburgh College of Art gaining a BA (Hons) in Ceramics. Gavin has worked in the ceramics industry and now works as a ceramic/glass specialist in schools and Art Colleges as well as working from his studio in Strathmiglo in Fife. He has exhibited both nationally and internationally. Gavin produces a range of contemporary porcelain tableware glazed in vibrant colours and cut using the traditional glass cutting technique of 'battuto' to create a highly textured, tactile surface on porcelain forms. This cutting gives the pieces a textured detail and a transparency which allows the internal coloured glaze to illuminate the exterior.



Ceramic bowl by Robert Hunter, Leith, Edinburgh

Robert Hunter trained at Gray's School of Art Aberdeen, graduating with a first-class honours degree in ceramics and glass. He is now based in the city of Edinburgh and works from the Wasps Studios in Leith. His pieces are characterised by simple but strong forms with textural surface details. He is passionate about self-sourced local organic materials and using these to develop his own glazes.



Ceramic teapot by Tricia Thom, Stockbridge, Edinburgh

Tricia Thom works from the Janet Adam Pottery in Stockbridge, Edinburgh. She studied ceramics at Gray's School of Art then worked in the ceramics industry, making and decorating pots in a production pottery. She went on to train as a teacher and taught art and ceramics in schools and colleges while at the same time, making her own range of ceramics. Tricia has now returned to more full time making and makes wheel-thrown porcelain pots that are then slip decorated and glazed. Her work pulls together her love of the process and the activity of making. It is an expression of her journeys through landscapes and time; the discovery of the connection between intuition and creativity; and a desire to integrate the elements of form and surface. Her latest shapes are strongly influenced by Japanese design.

