

# 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

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#### Decision

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

### 2. Minutes

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#### 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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**

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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.)