
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	13 March 2018
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/31/18/AW
Contact Officer:	Alana Ward, Libraries, Museums and Archives Manager	Contact No:	01475 712330
Subject:	Loan of Paintings from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee that two requests for the loans of paintings from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery (the James Watt Trust) have been received.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The first request comes from The Kirkcudbright Galleries, Dumfries and Galloway Council. The venue wishes to borrow an oil painting by Mary Armour (1902-2000) entitled *Still Life with Pomegranate* for an exhibition entitled *Stars of Scotland*. This show will be the inaugural display for these new galleries, with showing dates 30 June to 9 September, 2018.

This significant exhibition aims to celebrate the diversity and quality of public collections from across Scotland, focusing on the works of Scottish artists by birth or residence from around the mid-19th century to the end of the 20th century and including a small number of works by English and European artists.

- 2.2 The second request comes from the City Art Centre, City of Edinburgh Council. The venue wishes to borrow an oil painting by Victoria Crowe (1945 -) entitled *Tom Wickham's Barns* for a *Victoria Crowe Retrospective* with showing dates 11 May to 13 October, 2019. The selection of this work for the show has been made following a period of research and discussion with the artist.
- 2.3 Both institutions will be responsible for the collection and return of the works and will arrange all transport, insurance and handling. All costs will be borne by the borrowers.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee considers the request outlined above for the loans of works to The Kirkcudbright Galleries, Dumfries and Galloway and the City Art Centre, Edinburgh at the dates specified subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries, Museums and Archives Manager.

Wilma Bain
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The loan of the painting by Mary Armour to represent the important art collection of the McLean Museum in the Kirkcudbright exhibition is an apt one as Mary Armour and her artist husband William were key supporters in the 1950s of the successful project to extend the McLean Museum by building an art gallery extension. The extension opened to the public in 1958 and the Armours exhibited their art works in the new facility.

The work was purchased in 1947, the year of its execution by the artist, by the Stuart Anderson Caird Bequest Trustees and gifted to the McLean Museum's Caird Art Collection.

4.2 The Victoria Crowe Retrospective exhibition will reach a broad public and arts audience in the City Art Centre in Edinburgh. The painting was purchased in 1980 by the Scottish Arts Council from the artist in Penicuik and was retained in the SAC collection of contemporary art works until 1997 when it was transferred to the McLean Museum by the Scottish Arts Council Bequest. Museum staff selected this work amongst others as part of a distribution of contemporary works to accredited Scottish museums and galleries to augment their collections.

4.3 It is proposed that the loan of these works by the McLean Museum to these two significant exhibitions will promote the quality and extent of the holdings of paintings in the collection and encourage visits to the institution in the future.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed to lend the paintings to The Kirkcudbright Galleries, Dumfries and Galloway and the City Art Centre, Edinburgh, subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries, Museums and Archives Manager.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

6.2 Legal

There are no known legal implications.

6.3 Human Resources

The preparation for the loan of the work will be carried out by the staff of the McLean Museum and Art Gallery.

6.4 Equalities

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

6.5 Repopulation

There are no known repopulation implications.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 n/a

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None



Mary Armour

Still Life with Pomegranate

Oil on canvas 63.5 x 54 cm - Presented by the Stuart A. Caird Bequest 1947

Mary Nicol Neill Armour (née Steel) was born in Blantyre in 1902 and attended Hamilton Academy, later studying at Glasgow School of Art under Forrester Wilson and Maurice Grieffenhagen in the period 1920-1925. She received the Guthrie Award in 1927 and the Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts' Cargill Award in 1972. She married fellow artist William Armour in 1927 and they lived at Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire. She taught still life at Glasgow School of Art

1951-1962. Her work was exhibited widely in Scotland and elsewhere.



Victoria Crowe

Tom Wickham's Barns

Oil on board 59.5 x 120.5 cm - Presented by the Scottish Arts Council Bequest 1997

Victoria Crowe studied at Kingston School of Art and the Royal College of Art, London, before joining Edinburgh College of Art in 1968, where she taught drawing and painting until 1998. She has established herself as one of Scotland's leading artists. Her work covers landscapes, still-lives, portraits, self-portraits and interiors. She has been described as 'one of the most vital and original figurative painters currently at work in Scotland'. Her work is represented in a large number of public and private collections.