

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5

Report To: **Regeneration Committee** Date: 8 March 2012

Report By: **Corporate Director**

Report No: Education and Communities

RC/12/3/1/AE/A

Contact Officer: Alana Ward, Libraries Manager Contact No: 01475 712347

Subject: Request for Loan of a Painting from McLean Museum and Art Gallery

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee that there has been a request for the loan of a painting from the McLean Museum and Art Gallery (the James Watt Trust). The work forms part of the Caird Collection.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The request comes from the McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum (Leisure and Culture Dundee). The McManus is hosting the exhibition The Scottish Colourist Series: F C B Cadell organised by The National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh from 31 March until 17 June, 2012. The work requested is currently on loan to the Dean Gallery in Edinburgh as part of this exhibition.
- 2.2 The McManus Art Gallery wishes to borrow the oil painting 'Crème de Menthe' by F.C.B. Cadell for this exhibition.
- 2.3 The McManus Art Gallery will be responsible for the collection and return of the work and will arrange all transport, insurance and handling. The Gallery has strict security arrangements in place and the work will be covered by Government Indemnity Insurance.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the request outlined above for the loan of one painting to The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum from March until June, 2012, subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries Manager.

Angela Edwards **Head of Educational Planning & Culture**

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 F.C.B. Cadell is celebrated as one of the four Scottish Colourists, along with J.D. Fergusson, G.L. Hunter and S.J. Peploe. They are amongst the most admired of early twentieth-century British artists. Cadell was born in Edinburgh where he lived for most of his life and studied in Paris and Munich. He is known for his stylish portraits of Edinburgh New Town interiors and the elegant society that occupied them. There has been a dramatic revival of interest in Cadell's work over the past thirty years and a realisation of his historical importance.

The exhibition at the McManus in Dundee carries on from the highly successful and well attended (over 19,000 visitors since October) exhibition of Cadell's work at the Dean Gallery in Edinburgh, part of the National Galleries of Scotland.

4.2 The McLean Museum regularly lends works of art from its collection to exhibitions organised by suitable bodies. The high quality of the collection has resulted in the McLean loaning works internationally to Japan, Canada and France as well as contributing significant pieces to major shows in Edinburgh, Dublin and London. These shows increase the profile of the institution and Inverclyde Council as lenders and thereby increase the reputation of the Museum's holdings. Lending works from the Museum's collection encourages reciprocity when the McLean applies to borrow items from the collections of other organisations for special displays.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that the loan of this work to the exhibition by the McLean Museum will further promote the quality and extent of the holdings of paintings by the artist F.C.B. Cadell in the collection and encourage visits to the institution.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Finance: There are no financial implications.
- 6.2 Personnel: The preparation for the loan of the work will be carried out by staff of the National Gallery of Scotland.
- 6.3 Legal: The work is part of the Caird Collection. Under the terms of the James McLean Trust the collection shall be, so far as is practicable, kept together as a single collection and retained within the Watt Institution. As, however, the main object of the bequest was the promotion of art in the town of Greenock, advice from the legal section indicates that approval for a loan of a Caird Collection work for a limited time frame is permissible within the terms of the Trust as this advertises the Collection to a wider public.
- 6.4 Equalities: There are no equalities implications.