
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	21 January 2014
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/04/14/AW
Contact Officer:	Alana Ward, Libraries Museum And Archives Manager	Contact No:	01475 712330
Subject:	Request for Loan of a Painting from McLean Museum and Art Gallery		

1.0 PURPOSE

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

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The request comes from the Talbot Rice Gallery, The University of Edinburgh. The Talbot Rice Gallery, in conjunction with the School of Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, is planning a major exhibition on the subject of the Celtic Revival. It will be held at the Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, from 15 March 2014 until 5 May 2014.
- 2.2 The Talbot Rice Gallery wishes to borrow the oil painting '*Fand and Manannan*' by John Duncan (1865-1945) for this exhibition.
- 2.3 The Talbot Rice Gallery will be responsible for the collection and return of the work and will arrange all transport, insurance and handling. The Talbot Rice Gallery has strict security arrangements in place and the work will be covered by the University of Edinburgh's Fine Art Insurance Policy.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee approves the request outlined above for the loan of one painting to the Talbot Rice Gallery from March 2014 until May 2014 subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries, Museum and Archives Manager.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The exhibition, developed in partnership with academics from the University's Celtic and Scottish Studies department, will make a unique contribution to Celtic Revival studies in Scotland while reaching broad public and arts audiences.
- 4.2 Exploring the artistic, musical and literary ferment that made up the Scottish Celtic Revival, the exhibition will highlight a high-quality, representative selection of material connected with the movement. This will include painting, literary and folklore manuscripts and recordings, illustrations, photographs and an historic film featuring key personalities.
- 4.3 The exhibition will be linked to a major conference on *The Celtic Revival in Scotland (1860-1930)* taking place from the 1 May to 3 May 2014 at the University of Edinburgh and part-hosted by the National Galleries of Scotland. This conference will bring together scholars working in art, music, folklore collections, literary production, politics, religion, Gaelic linguistic revival, architecture and material culture studies, to reassess the role played by the Celtic Revival in the creation of modern Scottish identity.
- 4.4 As part of the University of Edinburgh, Talbot Rice Gallery is an accredited Museum with a long history of contemporary exhibitions and academic partnerships. *Celtic Revival* will provide a timely opportunity for academics and a broader public audience to assess an important but neglected aspect of Scottish art. As demonstrated by the British Museum's inclusion of a Celtic Revival strand within its planned 2015 exhibition of Celtic Art, this area is beginning to attract significant scholarly and curatorial interest. The exhibition at Talbot Rice will be prescient in this respect and play an important role in promoting key artworks and historical artefacts within an expanding discourse.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the loan of this work to the exhibition by the McLean Museum will promote the quality and extent of the holdings of paintings in the collection and encourage visits to the institution.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: No implications

Financial Implications – One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments

Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs / (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if applicable)	Other Comments

- 5.2 Human Resources: The preparation for the loan of the work will be carried out by staff of the McLean Museum.

5.3 Legal: All of the works to be loaned are the property of the McLean Museum and Art Gallery and can be loaned without restriction.

5.4 Equalities: No implications.

5.5 Repopulation: No implications.

The Painting



Fand and Manannan

Oil on canvas, 152.7 x 101.8 cm, painted by John Duncan about 1913.

John Duncan was key figure in the Celtic Revival of the early twentieth century. This work seems to have been important to him for although he painted the work in 1913, he never sold the painting, retaining it in his studio until his death when it was bequeathed to the McLean Museum.

Manannan mac Lir was the Irish god of the sea and fertility. He was the son of Lir and his name means "Manannan, Son of the Sea". He was the guardian of the Blessed Isles and the ruler of Mag Mell and had a ship that followed his commands without using sails. He possessed a cloak of invisibility, a helmet made of flames and a sword that always found its mark. His wife was Fand, a fairy queen and a minor sea goddess who made her home both in the Otherworld and on the Islands of Man. With her sister, Liban, she was one of the twin goddesses of health and earthly pleasures and was also known as "Pearl of Beauty".