

---

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education and Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>05 May 2015</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/44/15/GB</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Geraldine Bergin Acting Libraries Museum &amp; Archives Manager</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712347</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Loan of Painting from McLean Museum – Arthur Melville</b>		

---

## 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 Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh. The Scottish National Gallery is planning a major exhibition on the work of Arthur Melville (1855-1904). It will be held at The Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh, from 10 October, 2015 until 17 January, 2016.
- 2.2 The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art wishes to borrow a watercolour painting by Arthur Melville (1855-1904) entitled A Spanish Bullfight.
- 2.3 The Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh will be responsible for the collection and return of the work and will arrange all transport, insurance and handling. The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh has strict security arrangements in place and the work will be covered by Government Indemnity.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee approves the request outlined above for the loan of the paintings and sculpture to The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh from October, 2015 until January, 2016 subject to matters of transport, security and insurance being arranged to the satisfaction of the Libraries Manager.

**Patricia Cassidy**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Education, Communities & Organisational Development**

#### 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The exhibition will be the most important display of the artist's work for 30 years and will be the most extensive since his memorial exhibition in 1906. As one of Scotland's most important and popular artists the exhibition will reach a broad public in addition to traditional arts audiences.
- 4.2 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 and increase awareness across Scotland of the important role of the arts in Inverclyde.

#### 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: No implications

Financial Implications – One off Costs

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>Budget Year</b>	<b>Proposed Spend this Report</b>	<b>Virement From</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>

Financial Implications – Annually Recurring Costs / (Savings)

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

- 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:

No legal implications.

- 5.4 Equalities:

No equalities implications.

- 5.5 Repopulation:

No repopulation implications.

## The Painting



*A Spanish Bullfight*  
Watercolour on paper  
77.5 x 125.5 cm  
by  
Arthur Melville (1858-1904)

Arthur Melville moved at the age of fifteen with his family to East Linton, near Edinburgh where Melville was apprenticed to a grocer. After attending part-time evening classes he enrolled at the Royal Scottish Academy. One of his paintings was hung at the Royal Academy in London in 1878 and this encouraged him to go to Paris spending two years at Julien's atelier and sketching and painting watercolour studies in places such as Fontainebleau and Mont St. Michel.

He went to Egypt in 1881 and travelled in the Persian Gulf and Mesopotamia, returning to Edinburgh with material that was to occupy him for the future. During his trip to Egypt he lived in Cairo for two years. In 1882 while travelling cross country by horse on a trip from Baghdad to the Black Sea he was twice attacked by bandits. The second time he was captured, robbed, stripped and left to die naked of exposure and thirst; he was saved by the local Iraqis and was later able to help the authorities hunt down and execute the robbers.

Although he continued to paint portraits, oriental scenes and scenes of southern Europe became predominant with scenes of market places, mosques and bull-rings amongst his most popular subjects. He became a particularly influential artist to members of the Glasgow school. 1889 Melville had settled in London and, along with other members of the Glasgow School, joined the New English Art Club. In 1892 he travelled to Spain with Frank Brangwyn. It was on a subsequent visit to Spain that Melville contracted typhoid and died.