

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 16 June 2003

REPORT ON: 'Ode to the North Wind' exhibition, McManus Galleries

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts

REPORT NO: 380-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the forthcoming exhibition **Ode to the North Wind: Twentieth Century Scottish Painting** which opens at the McManus Galleries on 4 July and will run until the anticipated closure of the building. The display showcases the City's magnificent collection of twentieth century Scottish oil painting alongside smaller changing displays of works on paper. It will compliment the **Revealed** exhibition highlighting the past ten years of additions to the City's collection.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee note:

- 2.1 The private view on Thursday 3 July 2003
- 2.2 That the exhibition will remain in the gallery until the anticipated closure of McManus Galleries pending the successful Heritage Lottery application for redevelopment
- 2.3 That the focus for education and outreach work will take place from September 2003. We will take advantage of the extended exhibition period to develop in depth relationships with a number of specifically targeted groups creating activities specially tailored for their needs.
- 2.4 The loan of two significant paintings from the National Galleries of Scotland:
Edward Baird: The Birth of Venus (Collection of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art)
Ken Currie: The Three Oncologists (Collection of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery)

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The total exhibition costs of £5,000 can be met from the Leisure and Arts Department revenue budget 2003/04. As the exhibition runs until the anticipated closure of the McManus Gallery, further revenue funds will be required to service a continuing education and outreach programme in 2004/05.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The two themes of (i) Opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all and (ii) local needs are met locally have been taken into consideration in the planning of this exhibition and associated education and outreach programme.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The principles of creating greater access and targeting specific under represented audiences have informed the development of the exhibition education and outreach programme and its anticipated delivery.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 Throughout a century of rapid technological change, and at a time when artists are able to create new work from a dazzling array of new media, perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Scottish art as we enter the 21st century is artists continued fascination with painting. 'Ode to the North Wind' showcases Dundee's magnificent collection of twentieth century Scottish oil painting alongside smaller changing displays of watercolours and drawings.
- 6.2 The gallery will illustrate the major influences and significant movements that have distinguished Scottish painting over the last 100 years and highlight the work of, often locally-based, artists who have created significant work outside the mainstream trends.
- 6.3 The display drawn from the City's own collection will be augmented by two significant loans from the National Galleries of Scotland. The department is delighted that 'The Birth of Venus', a nationally significant surrealist painting by the Montrose artist Edward Baird, will return to Dundee to be shown alongside the City's own surrealist paintings. A more recent work "The Three Oncologists" by Ken Currie is a portrait of three of the leading specialists in cancer research: Sir Alfred Cuschieri; Sir David Lane; and Professor Robert J Steele. The three medical scientists are central to Dundee University's world-renowned expertise in medical and life sciences. This is the first time that the portrait has been shown in Dundee.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance, and Director of Corporate Planning have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None

STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ARTS
21 MAY 2003