

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 15 September 2003**

**REPORT ON: Exhibition at McManus Galleries**

**REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts**

**REPORT NO: 594-2003**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the forthcoming artist initiative, **pathos of evolution**, which opens at the McManus Galleries on 20 October and closes on 4 January 2004. The programme includes a series of temporary installation and performances and encourages critical debate of current issues central to contemporary cultural activity in the city.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee note:

- 2.1 The public opening of the initiative is on Monday 20 October 2003.
- 2.2 The programme of events integral to the project.
- 2.3 The education and outreach work developed for the project.
- 2.4 The opportunity given to emergent visual artists currently based in Dundee.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The total exhibition costs of £8,000 can be met from the Leisure and Arts Department's 2003/2004 revenue budget.

### **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 This initiative marks a new development in the McManus programme by placing cutting edge contemporary work within the context of an historical setting. This will bring a new perspective to the collections and offer a platform for emerging visual artists currently based in Dundee. This project confirms the city's commitment to the development of recent graduates and the retention of such talent within Dundee.

- 6.2 The gallery will host a series of presentations interventions and events which will build towards a final exhibition in December. There is an opportunity to explore and re-interpret the space in the gallery enabling the presentation of diverse works throughout the programme and exhibition. A programme of workshops and events will be introduced during the project and a commissioned text will explore current culture and creative practice evolving in Dundee at this time.
- 6.3 The initiative will have a strong marketing element targeted at attracting new audiences to McManus Galleries as it prepares for its long-term development. It is proposed that the programme begins with one key exhibit followed by events including live performances, public debate and installations. Each additional intervention will contribute to the final exhibition of work.
- 6.4 The initial installation proposed is an existing piece titled 'Kinaree' by Pernille Spence. This sculptural piece is the second in a series of performance works created over the past five years. This particular work follows on from a performance to camera work "I look up... I look down" which was inspired by the human desire to experience flight (without the shell of an aircraft) and the loaded imagery of Icarus's attempt to fly from the myth of Daedalus and Icarus. An edited film of Kinaree will be exhibited alongside the object with live performances by the artist throughout the three week presentation.
- 6.5 On show will be new paintings by Delia Baillie from a developing series titled 'Las Vegas to Rainer' a response to her recent 4-month residency in the western-most states of America. Attracted to this area by the proximity of city life with geologically fluid landmasses, Baillie began her exploration in Los Angeles, then Las Vegas on the opposite side of the Mojave Desert before travelling through California. Prior to visiting the States the artist had been exploring (on a more modest level) a coalition of control and chance through line, surface and colour. The 'paintings' produced for this exhibition will respond to this new source material while continuing to unconsciously and deliberately play off the surface quality of the work against the integrity of the imagery. During the course of her journey Baillie continued to explore issues arising from previous Dundee-based work.
- 6.6 The Collage/Intervention by Michael Mallet utilises previously unseen paper components. Mallett will install his large-scale paper installations 'live'. Working during the first week of the exhibition he will gradually construct his intricate collages enabling the public to view and interact as the work develops.
- 6.7 The educational aspects of the project will include:
- Sessions for adults encouraging awareness and discussion of the work presented and the context in which it is produced.  
 A series of hands-on workshops, with target groups (young adults) will be delivered by the artists and the Leisure and Arts Department.  
 The exhibition may also include work produced by the artists and communities.  
 The targeted groups will include young adults, locally based artists and the general public.  
 These will take place within the community and at McManus Galleries.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community 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  
20 AUGUST 2003**