

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 11 February 2008

REPORT ON: Major Artwork Commission

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 77-2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek Committee approval to enter into a contract with artist David Batchelor for the commission of a major artwork for installation in the redeveloped McManus Galleries and Museum.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves this contract.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The total cost of this commission is £47,740. This expenditure will be funded through grants from the following sources:

National Collecting Scheme for Scotland	£5,000
Art Fund	£27,740
Dundee Art Galleries and Museums Association	£3,000
Henry Moore Foundation	£7,000

The balance of £5,000 will be met from the McManus Fundraising Appeal.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

5.0 MAIN TEXT

5.1 David Batchelor was born in Dundee in 1955 and is known internationally as an artist, writer and critic. He has exhibited widely and currently lives and works in London where he is Senior Tutor in Critical Theory at the Royal College of Art.

5.2 "Candella 8" is a major sculpture which would hang in the new central circulation core within the refurbished McManus Galleries and Museum.

- 5.2 This sculpture would respond directly to the proportions of its location. It would be a hanging, torpedo-shaped cluster of some 250 brightly coloured plastic bottles suspended through three storeys from a single point in the roof. Each bottle would be illuminated by a low-energy lamp, as the ambient light levels change from bright daylight to a more muted artificial light later in the day the work will change from a subdued glow to an intensely artificial light.
- 5.3 The quality of the work is evidenced by the significant external funding which has been secured to support this acquisition. A major grant has been awarded from The Art Fund - the first time that they have funded an artist commission in this way. They have requested close liaison in promoting the commission both now and nearer the time of installation. This is also the first time funds have been secured from the Henry Moore Foundation. A grant has also been received from Dundee Art Galleries and Museums Association (DAGMA) who have never before funded the acquisition of a contemporary artwork for the collection.
- 5.4 The central concern of Batchelor's work is colour. His work takes many forms but the materials he uses and the subject matter he explores are always rooted in the artificial, manufactured world of the city. Despite their humble origins, made from materials that have been abandoned or purchased cheaply, his artworks are considered to be mesmerisingly beautiful. His work has been constructed from a variety of materials, including trolleys, metal shelving, plastics, perspex, empty fluid bottles and most recently items purchased from "pound shops".
- 5.5 "Candella 8" would be produced specifically for the McManus Galleries and Museum. It relates directly to "Candella 7" which was shown at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh in 2006.

6.0 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) and Head of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
17 JANUARY 2008