



National Collecting Scheme for Scotland

National Collecting Scheme Scotland

National Collecting Scheme Scotland is an initiative that supports public collections across Scotland to acquire and present challenging contemporary visual art. The initiative also seeks to enable curators within those organisations to extend their knowledge and understanding of contemporary visual arts, and to develop their engagement with the visual arts sector in Scotland.

Scotland is home to some very fine public collections, which are of local, national and international significance. It is the aim of the NCSS that those public collections are able to reflect the range and vibrancy of contemporary art created here and abroad, that they can help build new audiences for the contemporary visual arts, as well as engage and work with artists and visual arts organisations.

Some facts:

- NCSS is an initiative of the Scottish Arts Council.
- Currently NCSS has seven museum partners. These are Aberdeen Art Gallery, McManus Galleries, Dundee, Edinburgh City Art Centre, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Hunterian Art Gallery, Paisley Museum and Art Gallery, and the Pier Arts Centre, Orkney.
- In its first phase - 2003-2006 - NCSS enabled a total of 122 acquisitions by six public collections (including craft in its first phase). In 2007-2008 a further 18 works of visual art have been acquired. The Scottish Arts Council will support further acquisitions in 2008-2009.
- NCSS member were also involved in an innovative joint commissioning project – the first of its kind in the UK. They collaborated to commission Joanne Tatham & Tom O’Sullivan to create a substantial and ambitious new work of art for Scotland
- Aberdeen Art Gallery hosted the *Scotland & Venice* exhibition December 2007- January 2008. Pier Arts Centre, Orkney is currently hosting an exhibition as part of the *Scotland & Venice* project – featuring the work of Simon Starling, Cathy Wilkes and Charles Avery.



Participating curators 2007-2009

1) Aberdeen Art Gallery

Dr Jennifer Melville, Keeper (Fine Art)
Olga Ferguson, Assistant Keeper (Fine Art)
Ann Steed, Assistant Keeper (Fine Art)
Griffin Co, Assistant Keeper (Fine Art)

Challenging contemporary art is, and always has been, at the fore of Aberdeen Art Gallery's collecting and exhibitions priorities. Jennifer and her team acquire to a deliberately wide brief, although their acquisitions often focus on work that has the human presence at its core.

Work by artists recently acquired: *Francesca Woodman, Charles Avery, Henry Coombes, Alex Hymes*

Contact:

Aberdeen Art Gallery
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Aberdeen
AB10 1FQ
<http://www.aagm.co.uk/code/emuseum.asp>
Email: JMELVILLE@aberdeencity.gov.uk

2) McManus Galleries, Dundee

Anna Robertson, Senior Curator of Art
Susan Keracher, Curator

Dundee was the first local authority in Scotland to purchase fine art photography – a work by Thomas Joshua Cooper in 1985. Under the impetus of the NCSS, McManus has also collected Wolfgang Tillmans, Mat Colishaw, Sophy Ricketts and Catherine Yass.

Work by artists recently acquired: *Alex Hartley, Torsten Lauschmann, Tim Knowles*. Anna has also commissioned an in-situ light work by *David Batchelor*, as part of the McManus Redevelopment project (due for completion and launch Autumn 2009)

Contact:

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susan.keracher@dundeecity.gov.uk



3) City Art Centre, Edinburgh

Ian O’Riordan, Art Manager

City Art Centre has one of the foremost collections of Scottish art in the country, comprising some 4000 works of art that include painting, prints, photography, artist films, and installation. CAC’s collecting in the first phase of NCSS concentrated on works of art that relate to or elucidate the broad theme of the built or physical environment.

Work by artists recently acquired: *Johanna Billings, Janice McNab*

Other artists acquired through the Scheme include: *Nathan Coley, Will Duke, Toby Paterson, Rosalind Nashashibi, Rose Frain*

Contact:

City Art Centre
2 Market Street
Edinburgh
EH1 1DE

<http://www.cac.org.uk/>

Email: ian.oriordan@edinburgh.gov.uk

4) Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow

Ben Harman, Curator, Contemporary Art
Sean McGlashan, Curator, Contemporary Art

GoMA did not participate in the first phase of the NCSS. It made its first acquisitions in 2007/8. Since 2003, it has endeavoured to develop its contemporary art collection, with priority given to the acquisition of a core group of work by Glasgow-based artists including whose practice has also become established internationally. Alongside this, GoMA has established a programme of commissioned exhibitions – including Roddy Buchanan. In 2007, it was selected to participate in Art fund International.

Artists recently acquired: *Graham Fagen*

Other artists included the collection: *Ilana Halperin, Claire Barclay, Martin Boyce, Jane Topping, Chad McHail, Simon Starling, Lucy Skaer, Hanneline Visnes*

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5) Hunterian Art Gallery, University of Glasgow

Mungo Campbell, Deputy Director (Collections)

The Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery (Uni of Glasgow) is Scotland's oldest public museum, founded in 1807. Over the last decade, the Hunterian's contemporary visual arts programme has developed through residencies, exhibitions, commissions, and acquisitions. The Hunterian's collections are extraordinary and encyclopaedic, covering the histories of geology, anatomy, medicine. Its fine art collection features Whistler, Rembrandt, Chardin. The Hunterian is interested in contemporary practitioners whose work examines, critiques or otherwise engages with these fields or disciplines, and which can bring fresh insights to its existing collections.

Artists acquired through the scheme include: *Mark Dion, Mat Collishaw, Ilana Halperin, Lucy Skaer, Anne Bevan and Janice Galloway*

Contact:

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G12 8QQ

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6) Paisley Museum & Art Gallery

Andrea Kusel, Keeper of Fine Art

Susan Jeffrey, Chief Curator

Paisley has a wide range of collections – including studio ceramics and its recognised collection on the history of the Paisley design. Its participation in the first phase of NCSS grew out of a conviction to bring contemporary visual arts to its audiences, and the scheme enabled Paisley to acquire works by artists with a connection to Paisley, and also works of a very particular and fine sensibility

Artists acquired through the Scheme include: *Hanneline Visnes, Jonathan Owens, Claire Barclay, Anya Gallaccio*

Contact:

Museum and Galleries
High Street
Paisley
PA1 2BA

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/ilwwcm/publishing.nsf/Content/els-jcp-PaisleyMuseum>

Email: andrea.kusel@renfrewshire.gov.uk



7) Pier Arts Centre, Orkney

Neil Firth, Director

Andrew Parkinson, Exhibitions Officer

The Pier is home to a small but important collection of British Modernist paintings, drawings and sculptures. The Gardiner collection includes works by Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson, Naum Gabo, Alfred Wallis, Margaret Mellis, Peter Lanyon, Terry Frost, amongst others. Through the NCSS, the Pier looks to develop its collection through the acquisition of contemporary works that investigate or extend the Modernist aesthetic – with particular emphasis on artists living and working in Orkney / Scotland and the Nordic countries.

Artists acquired through the Scheme include: *Olafur Eliasson, Camilla Løw, Alan Johnston, Garry Fabian Miller, Callum Innes and Roger Ackling.*

Contact:

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