

RUSSELL COTES ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Report subject	Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Acquisitions, Loans and Disposals Report
Meeting date	2 June 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	To note the new acquisitions to the Collection (material owned and held in trust by the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum charity in accordance with its charitable objectives) and the loan of material to other institutions (ie public art galleries and museums) and to approve the disposal of items in the Collection which do not meet the Museum's Core Offer in accordance with the Museums Association Code of Ethics.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>The Management Committee notes and approves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) acquisitions b) loans c) disposals <p>As outlined in the Acquisitions, Loans and Disposals Report</p>
Reason for recommendations	The recommendations are in line with the Museum's agreed policies and procedures, including its Collections Development Strategy, which outlines the areas of the collection for development and those areas which do not meet the Core Offer and are therefore subject to disposal in order to achieve a more usable, well managed collection. The process and procedures used conform to the Museums Association Code of Ethics.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Andy Martin, Portfolio Holder for Communications, Customers and Culture
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton, Chief Operations Officer
Report Authors	Duncan Walker, Curator Sarah Newman, Museum Manager
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Management Committee is required to note the acquisitions and loans made by the museum and to formally approve disposals from the Collection in line with the Collections Development Strategy and subject to the Museums Association Code of Ethics.

Acquisitions and Loans

2. The latest acquisitions to the Collections and loans are listed in Appendix 1 for the agreement of the Committee.
3. It has been a particularly rich period for acquisitions with many donations by renowned artists prompted by the recent Purbeck exhibition notably, seven prints and three watercolours by Bournemouth based artist Philip Leslie Moffatt-Ward (1888 - 1978), a drawing by contemporary artist Martyn Brewster (1952 -) and sculpture by Jon Edgar (1968 -). Also of note is the donation of two oil paintings by Bournemouth-born equestrian artist Lucy Kemp-Welch (1869 - 1958) and Phillipa Chappell, Mayoress of Bournemouth 2008/9, has donated a folding screen depicting the 'Four Seasons' by the pre-Raphaelite follower Fred Appleyard (1874 - 1973).
4. The Russell-Cotes won The Hallett Independent Acquisitions Award which enabled the museum to choose prints to the value of £8,000 from the London Original Print Fair, 2025. The Museum was able to buy amongst others 'Diving Controls 2' by Eric Ravilious (1903 – 1943) an important war artist not represented in our collection, and six prints depicting women's work during the First World War. They will be used in the *Artist as Witness* exhibition.

Disposals

5. One disposal is listed in the Appendix for the Committee's agreement. The donor offered the Museum her husband's, the artist painting and preparatory sketches shortly after his death, and she and her family have come to regret the decision and therefore asks the Committee to allow the works to be returned to the family.

Update on previous disposals

6. The pair of Little Auks from Scarborough (T9.11.2007.26) were taken by Leeds Museums and Galleries, the Gannet (337.33.125) and Hen Harrier (426.36.26.1) were transferred to Hampshire Cultural Trust. The Slavonian Grebe (T9.11.2007.15) and the Guillemot (T9.11.2007.18) were taken by the Bournemouth Natural Science

Society. The rest of the natural history and the manual washing machine went to the auctioneers and were successfully sold as no other public collections were interested in them. The funds raised are being used to conserve the Robert MacBryde (1913-1966) painting *Ave Maria Lane* for the *Artist as Witness* exhibition.

7. At the Chair's suggestion at the January meeting, the Shelley Rooms Museum books were offered to universities nationwide and the majority have been sent to Sheffield University with a few being selected by BCP Libraries.

Options Appraisal

8. Each action is decided on a case-by-case basis in line with the Collections Development Strategy as outlined in the report and appendices.

Summary of financial implications

9. There are minimal financial costs from most acquisitions and any financial implication (storage, conservation cost) is taken into consideration when deciding on the acquisition of material.
10. The costs of loans are borne by the borrowers and it is anticipated that the institutions which acquire disposed objects will cover costs of removal and transport.
11. Any income generated by the sale of items from the Collection is held in a restricted fund and used solely for the purposes of acquiring items for the Collection (according to the Collections Development Strategy) or conserving objects already in the Collection in compliance with the Museums Association Code of Ethics and item 16.11 of the Collections Development Strategy.

Summary of legal implications

12. All activities are carried out in line with the Museums Association Code of Ethics and the Museum's Collection Development Strategy.

Summary of human resources implications

13. n/a

Summary of sustainability impact

14. n/a

Summary of public health implications

15. n/a

Summary of equality implications

16. n/a

Summary of risk assessment

17. n/a

Background papers

Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum Collections Development Strategy.
See <https://russellcotes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/5-Collections-Development-Policy.pdf>

Appendices

Appendix 1 Acquisitions Loans and Disposals

Appendix 2 Disposals Report for 'Lighthouse Fields, Purbeck' by Pádraig Mac Miadhacháin (1929-2017), 1979 and preparatory sketches