

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Culture, Heritage and Libraries	27 January 2014
Subject: Guildhall Art Gallery: Amendment to Acquisitions Policy	Public
Report of: Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries	For Decision
Summary	
<p>This report seeks to make an amendment to the Acquisitions Policy to assist the creation of a strong identity for the Gallery and also generate greater visitor numbers at the Guildhall Art Gallery.</p> <p>The proposed changes within the report, to incorporate the theme 'Plenty and Progress' into the current Acquisitions Policy, are inspired by a recently acquired work of art by the artist Mark Titchner.</p> <p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorse the proposed amendments to the Guildhall Art Gallery Acquisitions detailed within this report and highlighted at Appendix 1. 	

Main Report

Background

1. The policy governing acquisitions and disposals made by the Guildhall Art Gallery was formally adopted on 21 February 2011 and remains in effect until December 2018. The policy gives the Gallery its statement of purpose, sets out its existing collections and sets out various governance procedures for the maintenance of its collections.

Current Position

2. Whilst the current policy is valid until December 2018, the Gallery wish to make some changes to allow for the acquisition of a 'capsule collection' within the main collection. It is believed that the changes will bring focus to the Gallery's contemporary collecting activities.

Proposals

3. It is proposed that an addition be made to the existing acquisitions policy. The title of the addition would be 'Plenty and Progress'. This would focus on art that references the themes of money, power, boom and bust, trade and commerce, and justice, with particular reference to the financial services.

4. The proposed changes within the report are inspired by a recently acquired work of art by the artist Mark Titchner viewable at Appendix 2.
5. It hoped that the addition of 'Plenty of Progress' will additionally lead to: -
 - The encouragement of open debate and discussion around the aforementioned emotive topics through the medium of art and the unique surroundings of the Gallery;
 - The formation of a clear and original focus for the collections, which have lost their way in recent years, given competing collecting remits of the Museum of London in particular;
 - The creation of a strong identity for Guildhall Art Gallery and position it as a site where art and commerce collide; and
 - An increase visitor figures to the Gallery by widening the collection and display remit.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

6. The proposals within the report align with the City's Corporate Plan and in particular, Key Policy Priority (KPP5), to increase the impact of the City's cultural and heritage offer on the life of London and the Nation.

Implications

7. There are no financial implications to the proposed amendment.

Conclusion

8. The proposals within this report enhance the current Acquisitions Policy at the Guildhall Art Gallery to provide it with a new focus for its contemporary collections. The incorporation of 'Plenty and Progress' into the existing policy will lead to greater visitor numbers, the encouragement of open debate, an original focus and the creation of a strong identity for the Gallery.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1** - Guildhall Art Gallery - Acquisition and Disposal Policy
- **Appendix 2** – 'Plenty and Progress' by Mark Tichner

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