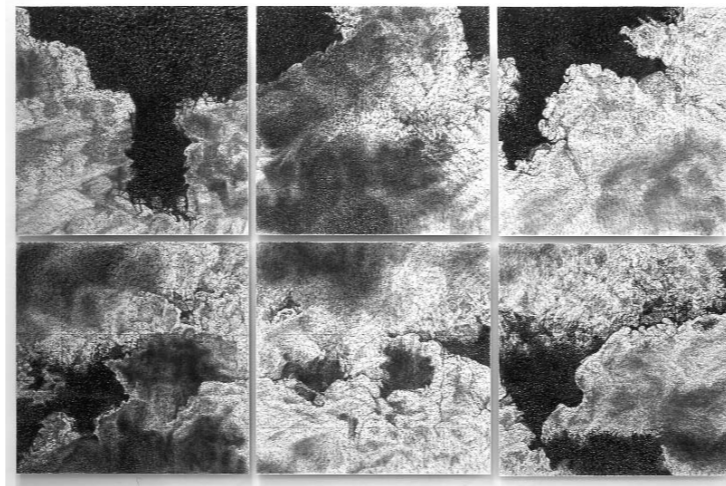


# acquisitions

funding policy



Terry McAllister - Charcoal on Paper on Foamex  
Front cover - Colin Davis, Detail 'Prussian Mist', 2003

### Further Information

Full details of all Council funding are available from:

arts council of northern ireland macneice house 77 malone road belfast bt9 6aq t:028 9038 5200 f:028 9066 1715 [www.artscouncil-ni.org](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org)



## The arts: inspiring the imagination, building the future

### Acquisitions Policy

#### Introduction

Between 1945 and 1995, the Arts Council purchased contemporary art primarily from artists living in Northern Ireland. After a fundamental review of its collecting policy in 1999, it decided (due to increasing costs, conservation and storage issues) to gift the majority of the collection – some 900 works – to registered museums in Northern Ireland. Pending approval from government, this process will be underway in 2004.

Although the Council no longer maintains a large public collection, it does still recognise the importance of purchasing contemporary work as a means of supporting artists. Accordingly, the Council has an acquisition fund of £50,000 under its Support for the Individual Artist Programme.

#### Definitions

Artists must have been living in Northern Ireland for 12 months before date of purchase of work and have made a contribution to artistic activities in Northern Ireland. Artists from Northern Ireland who are living elsewhere will also be considered.

Priority is given to artists whose work is both challenging and innovative. Emerging as well as established artists are eligible. Works in all media are considered including painting, sculpture, crafts, prints, photography and new forms of art, for example, video.

The Council will consider accepting gifts to the collection. Such work will of course be assessed against the same criteria as for purchase.

#### Funding

The Acquisitions Committee – Membership of this committee consists of two Council member with expertise in visual arts; the Arts Development Director with responsibility for visual arts; the Arts Development Officer

(Visual Arts and Collections); and two external advisors drawn from the Council's central listing of advisors (changed every 18 months).

Works are considered against the following criteria – quality, innovation and challenging nature of the work, evidence of artistic achievement, the artist's contribution to visual arts in Northern Ireland, relevance of purchase to furtherance both of the artist's career and of the Council's funding objectives.

Works are brought to the attention of Council in two ways. Committee members may make recommendations against the stated criteria following studio visits, review of slides and catalogues of work, and gallery exhibitions. Artists themselves may apply once every two years to the acquisition scheme for their work to be purchased. The committee meets regularly to make decisions about purchases.

Pending governmental approval, the Council will gift works after a three-to five-year period to institutions throughout Northern Ireland, through an open application procedure. Artists will be informed of the outcome of the gifting of their work.

All acquisitions will be documented on [www.artscouncil-ni.org](http://www.artscouncil-ni.org) and the works themselves displayed in the Arts Council and in the offices of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. A small touring show of recent acquisitions will be organised annually. Other measures to promote and showcase acquisitions will be explored.

### Funding Objectives

The acquisition of art works by contemporary artists from Northern Ireland enables the Council to realise its four Priorities and meet its seven Strategic Objectives.

Funding objectives are to:

- assist individual artists (1)
- contribute to the development of visual arts practice in Northern Ireland (1, 2, 7)
- develop a culture in which visual art is respected and appreciated (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
- foster knowledge and research (6)
- ensure that contemporary visual arts are showcased (2, 7)
- stimulate the art market in Northern Ireland (1, 2, 7)

### Strategic Priorities

The Arts Council will give a priority to artists, arts organisations, arts initiatives and partnerships which:

- A increase opportunities for creative participation in the arts;
- B develop new audiences for the arts and build on existing ones;
- C extend opportunities for artists to develop their work and practice;
- D strengthen the capacity of arts organisations to deliver quality experiences of the arts.

### Strategic Objectives

The Arts Council is committed to:

- 1 increase opportunities for artists working to the highest standards and in innovative ways;
- 2 strengthen the arts infrastructure;
- 3 engage with community arts to increase opportunities for creative participation, to develop new audiences and to expand the range of contexts in which artists work;
- 4 engage with voluntary arts to increase opportunities for creative participation, to develop new audiences and expand the range of contexts in which artists work;
- 5 increase the quality of access for disabled people to the arts;
- 6 enhance children and young people's access to creative expression through the arts, in contexts of their own choosing, and increase opportunities for participation as they grow and develop;
- 7 increase audiences for the arts.