

New Hall Art Collection and its Role in the College

Adopted by Council:

Review Date: September 2021

Committee Ownership: Art

The Art Collection is owned by the College and contributes to the College's strategic aims by providing a vibrant, innovative and intellectually inspiring environment. However, the College's fundamental purpose as a place of education, learning and research and a place where our students live needs be considered in the placement of works of art, and decisions about where works are displayed need to take the mission of the College into the account. This does not mean that the Collection should be anodyne and there may well be artworks which some people find disturbing, offensive or even shocking. However, when deciding where to place art, the College is concerned to act in an inclusive manner at times of particular sensitivity when people are least likely to be informed about the College, its purpose and values. Such situations might include interviews or when first time students or their parents are visiting the College. College should also be sensitive if students expressed strong concerns about works of art in their living accommodation, and students should have a mechanism for expressing such concerns.

If spaces for artworks are chosen with sensitivity, requests for temporary removal should only be made in exceptional circumstances. However, there needs to be a process in place should a concern be raised, and temporary removal should not be regarded as constituting censorship. In such a case, the request should be made to the President, the Chair of the Art Committee and the Curator for decision. In some cases, they may consult with other College Officers or bring the matter to Council. Students should route issues of significant concern through their Art Committee representative who should speak to the Curator or Chair of the Art Committee.

Exhibitions or significant art events in the College will be approved by the College Officers before commitments have been made to artists or to Fellows if they are engaged. The College Officers will require a short proposal document (maximum two pages) which will set out:

- a) the theme, the art and a description of what the artist thinks the exhibition is about/trying to illustrate, etc.
- b) a little background on the artist and previous work
- c) practical details – start and end dates of the exhibition, noting key events in College during this time, locations, resources (both financial and human) needed to deliver the project.