

Annual Report & Statement of Accounts

Year to 31 March 2020



Friends of the
F.E. McWILLIAM
Gallery & Studio

NIC106019

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Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio

The Purpose of the Charity

To stimulate and promote an understanding and appreciation of art, in particular the work of Banbridge-born and internationally renowned sculptor Frederick Edward McWilliam (1909-1992), and thereby to enhance the lives of people of all ages locally, nationally and internationally.

The charity's beneficiary is the general public.

Public Benefit

The direct benefits flowing from this purpose are: an increased accessibility to and improved understanding and appreciation of local, national and international culture, heritage and the arts, including the work of internationally renowned sculptor Frederick Edward McWilliam (F.E. McWilliam 1909-1992)

To achieve this purpose from April 2019 to March 2020 the charity has:

1. Organised lectures at the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio for members and others
2. Attended networking events with other arts' groups
3. Provided a bursary for an artist to attend a centre for creative arts
4. Commissioned the design and delivery of a creative professional development programme for primary school teachers.
5. Arranged a two-part sculpture making event with artist Jasper McKinney MBE
6. Organised tours and visits to other museums and galleries
7. Celebrated F.E. McWilliam's Chocolate Soldier with a special evening event.
8. Acquired a new F.E. McWilliam monoprint for the collection in recognition of Curator, Dr Riann Coulter's 10-year contribution to the collection and to the gallery.

Activities and Achievements

1. Organised lectures at the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio

The committee of the Friends of the gallery organised the following lectures for members and others:

- a) In April artist Locky Morris gave an entertaining and frank talk on his love of art, the inspiration behind his work and his exhibition 'Once a day every day all day long' which ran at the gallery in mid-2019. Locky talked about the impact of growing up in Derry and its influence on his work.
- b) In May James Knox, Director of the Fleming Collection, gave an entertaining talk at the opening of one of the most popular exhibitions held at the gallery – the 'Scottish Colourists from the Fleming Collection'. This was a super opening attended by a good crowd. Such was the popularity of this exhibition that the Committee arranged a further talk, this time by art historian Amanda Croft in September.
- c) In January 2020 Dickon Hall, fine art dealer specialising in post-impressionist art, gave an interesting and educational talk on buying and collecting art. He gave a fascinating insight into the challenges collectors in Northern Ireland in particular experience, and

complimented the role of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery in helping to address this by showing a wide diversity of exhibitions.

- d) In February Maureen Beary Ryan, art historian and former Director of the Friends of the National Gallery of Ireland, gave a detailed and fascinating talk on the life and work of entrepreneur William Dargan. Maureen highlighted Dargan's role in building the Cut in Banbridge and his part in setting up what was to become the National Gallery of Ireland. The audience included local history groups and other invited societies. We have agreed with Maureen that we will invite her back at a suitable date to do a further talk focusing on the outstanding art collection of the National Gallery and George Bernard Shaw's bequest.

2. Attended networking events with other arts groups

One of the highlights of the year was the unexpected and thrilling opportunity to join the Friends of Highlanes Gallery (the cross-border partner gallery of the F.E. McWilliam) and David Britton, art historian, auctioneer and collector, on a fascinating tour of the 'Birth of Modern Art' exhibition in Dublin castle. This spectacular June show had something for everyone. The event was another opportunity for the Friends' groups to meet and network. These connections continue to develop and offer a great opportunity to learn about art amongst like-minded people. We look forward to offering the Highlanes Friends a reciprocal opportunity to come north in 2020/21.

3. Provided a bursary for an artist to attend a centre for creative arts

A bursary for a two-week residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co Monaghan was advertised in early 2019. The opportunity to apply for the bursary was extended beyond the ABC Council area to all of Northern Ireland. The application process ran during March and was open to all visual artists born in or resident in Northern Ireland.

A selection panel comprising committee members and the Curator of the gallery assessed the applications and an award was made to visual artist Mairead McClean. Mairead works across film, video, sound and photography using material from a diverse range of sources. In keeping with the invitation to past recipients of the bursary, Mairead has been invited to showcase her work and talk to the Friends about her experience on the residency.

4. Commissioned a creative professional development programme for primary school teachers

The Friends charity has long been committed to education and wanted to identify ways that it could support arts education in a practical and enduring way. Following a focus group with teachers in 2018, the idea for a creative development programme was identified as a way forward.

Working closely with the Council's Community Arts Development Officer Louise Rice, the committee commissioned professional artist Deborah Malcomson, to design and deliver a creative professional development programme for primary school teachers.

The programme was designed to improve teachers' practical and creative skills and learn more about developing their students' progress in the classroom. The programme was made

up of six, one and-a-half hour practical workshops which took place in the gallery and were facilitated by Deborah Malcomson.

- Workshop One – Drawing/line
- Workshop Two – 3D Construction
- Workshop Three – Painting/print making
- Workshop Four – Malleable materials (clay/wax)
- Workshop Five – Textiles
- Workshop Six – Creative response to art works

Eleven teachers from the extended council area took part in the workshops and feedback at the time of writing this report is excellent. The committee will receive fuller feedback on the effectiveness of the workshops and will take a view on the potential to run the programme again.

5. Arranged a two-part sculpture making event

In October we were delighted to be able to offer a two-part Friends-only sculpture making event to our members. Jasper McKinney artist and friend of the gallery, agreed to run this event in the studio at the gallery. The first part of the event was a workshop where participants made their own wax sculpture. Part two was the opportunity for participants to visit the Cast Foundry in Dublin on a guided tour and to have their sculptures cast in bronze. This was an excellent event that helped makers get a new appreciation of the sculpting techniques that F.E may have used.

6. Organised tours and visits to other museums and galleries

- In early May Belfast was treated to the arrival of 'A Life in Drawings' – an exhibition of the Queen's collection of Leonardo da Vinci works as it toured the UK. The Friends of the gallery were fortunate to be able to attend a fascinating talk by art historian Amanda Croft followed by a viewing of the very special works on show.
- Also in May a group of Friends and guests attended a tour of the Airfield Estate in Dundrum just outside Dublin. Following a fascinating and entertaining tour of the big house, the art collection, the car collection and the beautiful gardens, the day ended with a delicious lunch in the on-site restaurant where the group ate organic produce grown on the estate. Our tour guide for the event made this a really memorable and enjoyable event.
- In June a group of Friends showed their on-going support for emerging artists by attending a tour of the Belfast School of Art's annual degree show in University of Ulster, Belfast. Millie Moore, artist and Chair of the Friends, led the group on an interesting and insightful tour which was so good that one of the committee bought a painting! Due to its popularity, the Friends keep this as a standing item on their calendar of events each year.
- In June a group of Friends visited McConville's Flax Mill in Dromore for a very interesting day. The McConville brothers have preserved the mill and set it up as a small museum that show-cases the linen making process as it was in the early 1900s. The brothers' enthusiasm for the traditional linen making skills was very evident and their evocation of a unique time in history was made real by the

traditional fiddle music they played at the end of the tour. This event complemented the Linen Lab exhibition that was showing in the F.E. McWilliam gallery at that time.

- In October Friends who had been involved in creating their own wax sculptures at a workshop run by artist Jasper McKinney, complemented their experience by visiting Cast Foundry in Dublin to arrange to have their pieces cast. This visit included a tour of the foundry and provided a valuable insider's view of the sculpting process. This proved to be another exciting event in the programme thanks to Jasper's professional input.
- In November the Friends were delighted to attend a tour of the thrilling 'Sorolla: Master of Light' tour at the National Gallery of Ireland. We were fortunate to secure a place at what was a very popular exhibition and appreciative of the help by the National Gallery in securing a tour by a professional tour guide. Sorolla took our breaths away.
- Sadly a planned visit of the glass artist Alison Lowry's challenging and thought provoking exhibition '(A) Dressing our Hidden Truths' at the Decorative Arts & History Museum in Dublin was postponed due to the pandemic. Our plans are to reschedule this event for later in the calendar of events for 2020-21.

7. Celebrated F.E McWilliam's chocolate soldier at a chocolate tasting event

In the spirit of McWilliam's lighter artistic subjects, the Friends took the opportunity of celebrating his popular 'Chocolate Soldier' bronze sculpture by hosting a chocolate tasting evening. This was both a fun and educational evening as the event was facilitated by Kevin Luehmann, a fully qualified chocolate sommelier from Hanover. This event drew a good crowd of guests as well as members and served to highlight the social side of the charity as well as its more serious objectives.

8. Acquired an F.E. McWilliam Monoprint

In August the charity acquired an F.E. McWilliam monoprint and dedicated its acquisition to Dr Riann Coulter, the gallery's curator, for her 10-year commitment to the collection and the gallery. This marked the setting up of an acquisition fund which offers scope to assist the gallery in growing the collection. The gallery has restricted budgeting opportunities to invest in the collection so the committee saw this as an ideal opportunity to help. We'd like to thank Dickon Hall who helped us succeed with our bid. We were delighted to see this beautiful piece join the collection and look forward to seeing it on display.

Impact

The benefit of the charity's work can be demonstrated through the wider dissemination of knowledge about the artist F.E. McWilliam, the gallery and art in general in the following ways:

1. The Amanda Croft, Dickon Hall, Maureen Beary Ryan and artists' lectures, most of which took place at the gallery, increased members' and guests' knowledge and appreciation of art and F.E. McWilliam. Lectures are advertised directly to members and on Facebook so that the general public can also attend, and members are encouraged to bring guests to events.

2. A condition of receiving the Maurna Crozier bursary is for the artist to share with the charity's membership their experience of the residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. This involves showcasing their work and describing their artistic practice, thus increasing the audience's learning and appreciation of art. (The award also aims to contribute to the development of artists in Ireland). This year we were delighted that our bursary recipient Mairead McClean, agreed to take part in a symposium in conjunction with the exhibition Penumbra, to mark the talents and contributions of Irish and Northern Irish women artists. However, due to the pandemic, the symposium was postponed. We are hopeful that this will be reinstated in the near future and that Mairead will be able to participate.
3. The teachers who took part in the Creative Classrooms initiative learned new skills and how to apply these in their primary school classrooms to inspire and develop young minds. Feedback so far suggests this has been a particularly effective way of increasing appreciation of art by teachers and young people.
4. Friends who participated in the sculpture making workshop learned more about the process and skills that would have been used by F.E. in his artistic practice, and are in a position to practise and grow these skills for themselves.
5. The Da Vinci, Birth of Modern Art, Sorolla and the foundry tours made a significant contribution to the learning and appreciation of art not least because of the professionalism and enthusiasm of the tour guides.
6. The recent acquisition of the F.E. McWilliam monoprint brought to our attention another aspect of F.E. McWilliam's work that we have yet to explore. The quality of the work and its place in the history of the artist's work offers opportunities to research and learn more about this remarkable artist. The acquisition of this early work also helps to fill a gap in the collection.

Private Benefit

Fees of £100-£150 are paid to lecturers and/or a small gift given to an invited interviewer. These payments are considered a justified expenditure and are often mitigated by ticket sales which generally range from £5 for non-members of the Friends to £3 for members and students, depending on the nature of the event.

The charity pays for other miscellaneous services provided, such as refreshments at networking events and considers such payments necessary although some private benefit may be gained.

Statement of Compliance

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the general public.

Financial Review 2019-20

We started the year with £4483.16.

Friends' membership remains our main source of income bringing in £2280 from 106 members – a slight decline from the 120 from the previous year.

It was quite a busy year up until the Coronavirus hit in March 2020.

Events such as lectures, workshops and trips generated ticket sales of £1535.00 against costs of £1977.12 which covers admission fees, tour guide fees and lecture fees for speakers.

This year we also sponsored a community-based project called Creative Classrooms with the guidance of artist Deborah Malcolmson. The project involved teachers from local primary schools attending a series of six workshops aimed at helping teachers involve their pupils in art. Each school was charged £50 for the course bringing in £550 in total as against costs of £1302 (Covering artist fees for development and delivery time, materials and resource packs, design and PR, catering). It was a very successful and positive experience for all involved and we will consider running this again.

We continue to promote the Maurna Crozier Bursary award with two weeks, (13/01/20 – 27/01/20), at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. This year the artist receiving the award was Mairead McClean who works across film, video, sound and photography using material from a diverse range of sources. Costs for this amounted to £667.56 (770 euros).

Our Christmas dinner at Quails in the Gallery was well supported and a very successful evening which took place in December. Thirty eight tickets @£27.95 each were sold bringing in £1062.10. Complementary drinks, the musician and gratuity were additional with the overall cost being £1509.60.

In recognition of curator, Riann Coulter having dedicated 10 years of hard work and inspiration to the success of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery, the Committee arranged the purchase, by auction at Adams in Dublin, of a rare coloured monotype print created by F.E. McWilliam in the 1930s. We were delighted to be the successful bidder at €2750 (£2496.14) and we now have the print on display in the gallery with a short inscription to Riann.

The public donation box at the entrance to the gallery generated £189.80. We also received a donation from UCD women's graduates of €100 (£83.64) following their visit to the gallery in June.

As mentioned in last year's review, we have now changed insurers to the Federation of Ulster Local Studies (FULS). This gives us membership of the society for an annual fee of £50 in October, and public liability insurance for 106 members at £169.60 from 01/04/20 (still to be processed and not showing in our accounts for 19/20).

Bank fees remain stable at £77.66. Accountancy fees were £200. Postage and stationery was £191. Printing of membership cards was £91 and £100 was moved into Petty cash of which £65.28 remains available.

Our year-end figure is £1987.62, which reflects our investment in supporting the gallery and meeting the charity's overall aims.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name

The Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio

Charity Number

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland NIC 106019

Address

Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio

F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio

200 Newry Road

Banbridge

BT32 3NB

Charity Trustees as at 31 March 2019

Mrs Millie Moore Chair

Miss Lynda Fyffe-McFadden Secretary

Mr Dermott Hutchinson Treasurer

Mrs Hilary Good

Mrs Fiona Hyslop

Mrs Christine Wright

Mrs Della McKinney

Mrs Anne Davidson

Mrs Helen Blane

Mr Jason Diamond

Mrs Brigitte Boland

Ex Officio Dr Riann Coulter Curator/Manager

Governance and Constitution

The charity is governed under Northern Ireland law by a constitution adopted on Friday the 23rd of September 2016. The charity operates within the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Council area of Northern Ireland.

Its purpose is to stimulate and promote an understanding and appreciation of art, in particular the work of Banbridge-born and internationally renowned sculptor Frederick Edward McWilliam (1909 to 1992), thereby enhancing the lives of people of all ages locally, nationally and internationally.

The charity is run by a committee of Trustees appointed at an annual general meeting, who pay an annual subscription. The charity has three officers: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Officers may serve for seven consecutive years but may be re-elected after two years. As of 31 March 2020, there are 11 Trustees plus the Curator of the gallery.

The charity has a membership who pay annual fees of £25 for an individual member, £40 for two from the same household and £18 for students and under 18 years of age.

The committee meets typically once per month except for July and August. In the year to the 31 March 2020 the committee met on nine occasions. At each meeting the Treasurer presents the latest accounts, and these are reviewed against budgets and forecast. Spending is discussed and approved. Officers may authorise some spending between meetings but must ensure that spending is reported at the next meeting. The meetings offer a forum to review activities within the annual programme of events and to plan forthcoming events. Further ad-hoc meetings are called if required, for example, to plan and manage special events or projects. The annual report and statement of accounts are approved by the Trustees and then presented to the members at the annual general meeting.

Carrying out the charitable purpose

To carry out the charitable purpose the Trustees have the power to:

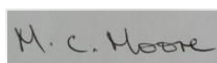
- (1) provide money by receipt of subscriptions, grants and donations to pay the costs of running the charity and furthering its purpose
- (2) organise and promote exhibitions, lectures, recitals and other social activities that encourage the appreciation of art including the collection of sculptor F.E McWilliam
- (3) provide grants for artists and/or commissioned art works
- (4) establish strategic relationships with educators to promote visits to the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio for learning
- (5) support other charities with similar charitable purposes
- (6) do anything that is lawful and necessary to achieve the charity's purpose.

Related organisations

The charity left the British Association of Friends of Museums (BAFM) and joined Federation of Ulster Local Studies (FULS) as this offered better value for money regarding membership insurance.

Approved and adopted by the meeting of the Committee by:

Signature Chair



Mrs Millie Moore

Date

7 October 2020

Independent Examiner's Report to the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery

This report covers the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020

Respective Responsibilities of Charity Trustees and Examiner:

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

1. Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
2. Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
3. State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report:

I have examined your charity's accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act. My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustee concerning any such matters. My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act.
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiners Statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Name: Calum Boland ACA



Date: 05/10/20

Accounts for the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio 2019-20

Accounts for the Friends of the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio 2019-20					
	<u>Income</u>			<u>Expenditure</u>	
Description		Amount	Description		Amount
			Lecture fees	£963.70	
Balance from 2018/19		£4483.16	Admission fees for trips	£246.13	
			Hospitality/gifts	£517.29	
Membership subscriptions	(19/20) £2280.00 (20/21) £25.00	£2305.00	Christmas dinner	£1509.60	
					£3236.72
Ticketed talks/trips	£1535.00		Creative Classrooms project	£1302.00	
Creative classrooms	£550.00		Maurna Crozier Bursary	£667.56	
Christmas dinner	£1062.10		Gallery acquisition	£2496.14	
		£3147.10			£4465.70
Donations	£83.64		Bank charges	£77.66	
Donation box	£189.80		Accounts	£200.00	
		£273.44	FULS insurance	£50.00 (169.60 pending)	
Petty cash		£65.28	Postage and stationery	£91.00	
			To Petty Cash	£100.00	
					£518.66
Total Income		£10,273.98	Total Expenditure		£8221.08
Final Balance		<u>£2052.90</u>			