

4. EXHIBITION: TREASURES FROM CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD COLLECTIONS

Officer responsible Art Gallery Manager	Author Ronnie Kelly (Manager of Public Programmes)
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Following discussions at previous Community Services Standing Committee meetings about exhibitions dependent on recoveries from admissions, and conscious of the Councillors' concern that any of the local community might feel disadvantaged by admission charges which were at a level to meet cost recoveries, the Gallery management sought funding from Community Trust, which would allow us to present the above Exhibition to Cantabrians free. We are delighted to report to the Committee that our grant application was successful.

The result of extensive collaboration over several years between the Gallery and Christ Church, Oxford, *Treasures from Christ Church, Oxford Collections* will be exhibited from 20 October, 2000 – 11 February, 2001, with a special opening reception in our Centre Court on Thursday, 19 October. This exhibition is not only the most important and valuable installation scheduled for the 150th anniversary celebrations of the founding of this city (by far-sighted and entrepreneurial Christ Church, Oxford graduates), but very significantly, the major show which closes the present Gallery's temporary exhibition programme.

Presented for the first time in New Zealand, this exhibition features very rare Old Master drawings and silver and silver-gilt treasures from a world-renowned collection. The exhibition will showcase works from the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries with a combined worth of NZ\$50 million dollars, to be indemnified by Government through the Ministry of Arts, Culture & Heritage.

This is the first time Christ Church, Oxford has permitted both drawings and rare College and Cathedral plate to travel as a major exhibition to the Southern Hemisphere, and it is the first time such a collection has ever visited New Zealand

The exhibition contains forty-five rare and valuable drawings, and highlights include the first drawings by the Renaissance genius Michelangelo to visit our shores, and sumptuous sketches by Raphael, as well as the Baroque masters, Annibale and Agostino Carracci. Also included are fifteen internationally significant works in precious metal from the College's famous collection of gold and silver artifacts. These works have a rich and fascinating history, and date from an exquisite Catalonian chalice of 1560, to grand early eighteenth century silver tableware. One of the most significant loans is the great silver gilt presentation service of 1660-61 (which the King presented to Christ Church on the Restoration of the Monarchy) in acknowledgement of the College's commitment to the Royalist cause.

This collection of irreplaceable works will provide a fascinating insight into the period that produced such masters as Michelangelo and Raphael, who profoundly influenced the history of Western art.

This exhibition is a registered Turning Point 2000 Heritage event.

The exhibition was allocated an additional \$110,000 by the Strategy and Resources Committee of 6 December, 1999 in its acknowledgement of its importance to the Canterbury community.

The Community Trust grant is \$45,000. This is in addition to a donation of \$30,000 from Mr & Mrs Adriaan Tasman, and cash sponsorship of \$13,000 from AMI – total sponsorship of \$88,000.

The target audience for the duration of the exhibition, is 75,000 visitors, who will have the opportunity to give a gold coin donation. It is hoped that this will cover the remaining \$25,000 required to meet the exhibition budget, along with sales of a special catalogue, cards and posters.

It will not only be the most appropriate exhibition to commemorate the cessation of the touring exhibition programme at the Robert McDougall Art Gallery in Canterbury's sesquicentennial year, it will also be an important educational experience for students, as well as the recreational visitor, both local and tourist. The exhibition will also feature inter-active educational areas supported by resource kits, and a comprehensive public programme.

Recommendation: That the report be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.