

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY CENTRE

The Heritage Room ♦ New Parliament House ♦ 5-7 Regent Road ♦ Edinburgh EH7 5BL
t: +44 (0)131 556 1665 e: graeme@snpc.org.uk
www.snpc.org.uk

7 March 2005

James Boyle
Chair
Cultural Commission
Broughton High School
Carrington Road
Edinburgh EH4 1EG

- 8 MAR 2005

Dear James,

The Scottish history and practice of the art of photography has world status; international collections celebrate photography with constant reference to past and present Scottish creativity and depend on work made in Scotland and by Scots.

However there is no institution in Scotland solely devoted to photography and SNPC Ltd is determined to build on, and continue, our strength in this most democratic of art forms.

It is our intention to create a National Photography Centre in Edinburgh, to be called Hill Adamson – THE MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY which will be not only a museum (housing and building upon the central resource of the Scottish National Photography Collection), and a state of the art gallery hosting Scottish and international photographic exhibitions of the highest quality but will also provide an important educational facility, a centre of excellence in conservation and a magnet for the best in photography and photographers. We believe that the National Collection, with its strong flavour of home, offer younger Scots an opportunity to reconnect with important periods of our recent history.

We will provide an accessible visual resource centre that will show the vital place photography holds in contemporary culture while communicating the intrinsic value and aesthetic significance of the image as an expression of human thought, imagination and talent.

Chairman: Dr Michael Shea. Patrons: Sir Sean Connery, Carol Colburn Høgel, Dunard Fund.

Founding Sponsor – Sony United Kingdom Limited

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Scottish Charity No. SC032955



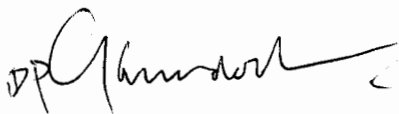
We will encourage creativity to advance and to celebrate the highest standards of excellence in photography and to disseminate knowledge and good practice to all who are interested in taking or studying photographs.

We will seek to work in schools and colleges, around the country and abroad. This will be achieved in active collaboration with artistic, educational and community organisations.

We will act as a focus and a source of interest, and will generate activity, both in Edinburgh, in Scotland and in the wider world.

We intend to have the Hill Adamson open by 2009, designated as the "Homecoming Year" by the Scottish Executive and to see the Hill Adamson used as a prominent feature of all future promotion of Scotland as a place of artistic and creative excellence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Shea', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Shea
Chairman



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March 2005

The Scottish National Photography Centre (SNPC Ltd, a charitable company limited by guarantee) is the organisation undertaking the project to create Hill Adamson – THE MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY in the former Royal High School on the Calton Hill, Edinburgh. It has the full support of the National Galleries and the City of Edinburgh with whom it is working in partnership. It has secured significant major sponsorship from Sony UK Ltd and is presently developing its final funding package, including an application for HLF funding.

Hill Adamson – THE MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY will provide a uniquely important national and international centre for the heritage and promotion of the medium of photography, an art form which has its roots in Scotland.

In considering the future of the arts in Scotland, we would ask the Cultural Commission to take account of the following points:

- *It is a cultural right that all Scots and those who come here should have access to the unrivalled wealth that is our photographic heritage both as art and social history.*
- *Our heritage must be conserved to the highest possible standard by the employment of the best skills and technology so as to be protected for future generations.*
- *The Scottish people and those who visit us must also be able to experience the very best of contemporary photography and related media and to be able to do so in a physical and intellectual setting specifically designed for the purpose.*
- *Our young people must be assisted in learning about our history and the contemporary world through the medium of photography. They must also have access to the skills which will allow them to make images themselves.*
- *Photographers, academics, conservationists and other professionals must have access for practice and research to such a national resource as SNPC.*

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- *Scotland will be the richer if it is enabled to celebrate its nationally and internationally recognised achievements of our contemporary artists in photography. The governance of the agencies and repositories for photography and related media on a national scale and when dealing with items of national and international significance lies properly in the public sector while working with all those committed to the medium whether public, or private and located in Scotland or abroad.*

- *Such bodies as The National Galleries of Scotland, The Scottish Arts Council, and The National Museums of Scotland must maintain a responsibility for the development and promotion of photography and related media, working in collaboration with SNPC.*

SNPC believes that it will be in a position to create the national institution for photography which our outstanding heritage and contemporary achievements deserve. It will do so in the exceptional setting of Thomas Hamilton's masterwork Royal High School.

It would urge the Cultural Commission to recognise the gap which currently exists in provision of access to the experience of photography which is now available to almost every other country in the world. That it is absent from Scotland is a great paradox since ours is a country with more to celebrate in this field than in some others.

The establishment of Hill Adamson – THE MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY intends to redress that situation, and hopes that the Cultural Commission will see fit to include support for the new institution, and photography, in its recommendations.