

Scottish Colourists: Public Collections in Britain

University of Glasgow and Hunterian Art Gallery
Academic Supervisors: Dr. Christina Young, Dr. Caroline Rae.
Placement Supervisor: Hunterian Curator Anne Dulau

Ruth Wright

MLitt Technical Art History



Fig.1:
J D Fergusson
(1874-1961)



Fig.2:
S J Peploe
(1871-1935)



Fig.3:
G L Hunter
(1879-1931)



Fig.4:
F C B Cadell
(1883-1937)

Introduction

The Hunterian at University of Glasgow along with the National Galleries of Scotland are carrying out an extremely exciting research project on the Scottish Colourists, a group of four Scottish born artists who worked between 1900 and 1930. The aim is to obtain clearer knowledge of the group's working practices, artistic techniques and materials. The starting point of this project was to establish which art galleries hold Scottish Colourists' works, specifically oil paintings. They are known for their use of vibrant colours. All four artists visited Paris early in their careers from which they derived artistic inspiration. Although the artists knew each other they didn't often exhibit collectively, in fact their works were only shown together three times during their lives. It wasn't until late 1940s that the four artists became known as the Scottish Colourists.

Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen
Tate Galleries, London
Gracefield Gallery, Dumfries
Pathfoot Gallery, Stirling
McManus Galleries, Dundee
Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton
Kirkcaldy Art Gallery, Fife
Kelvingrove Museum & Art Gallery, Glasgow
The Hunterian Art gallery, Glasgow



Fig.5: Map of Britain

Glasgow Museum Resource Centre, Glasgow
Ferens Art Gallery, Hull
Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester
The Fergusson Gallery, Perth
The Hunterian, Glasgow
Potteries Museum Stoke-on-Trent
City Art Centre, National Galleries of Scotland, Edn.
Paxton House, Berwickshire
McLean Museum, Greenock

Objectives

- (1) To establish which galleries in Britain hold Scottish Colourists oil paintings.
- (2) To collect all information available for each painting.
- (3) To create an Excel sheet.

Methodology

- (1) Galleries were contacted by phone and email.
- (2) Galleries visited were Hunterian, Kelvingrove, Pathfoot, Fergusson and Glasgow Museums Resource Centre. Photographs were taken and sketches made.
- (3) Met and spoke with curators.
- (4) Excel sheet was constructed.

Results

- (1) Many galleries in Britain hold Scottish Colourists paintings.
- (2) The number of paintings held by each gallery varies from less than ten to as many as 200.
- (3) The Pathfoot and Fergusson Galleries obtained their collections by donation from The J D Fergusson Foundation established by his wife Margaret Morris.
- (4) Excel sheet was produced.



Fig.6: Scottish Colourists Room, Kelvingrove.
Image taken by Ruth Wright



Fig.7: The Fergusson Gallery.
Courtesy of University of Stirling

Artist	Name of Work of Art & Institution number	Date of Art Work	Standard sizes of support	Support	Binding Medium	Dimension in cm (unframed)
Fergusson	Tormentors, Edinburgh: 3150	c. 1900		canvas	oil	50.8 x 40.8
Fergusson	Hat With Red Area Extreme Rice - 3173	1907		canvas	oil	86.4 x 66
Fergusson	Goñe Juan 2792	1937		canvas	oil	54.6 x 65.4
Fergusson	The Rosemary House, St Hilary 2793	1944		canvas	oil	64.8 x 93.3
Hunter	The Blue Hat 2393	1925		canvas	oil	35.6 x 30.5
Hunter	The Red Jacket 2502	ca 1910-1914		enamelboard	oil	24.1 x 43.2
Hunter	A Village in Fife 3269	ca 1918-1928		canvas	oil	101.6 x 81.3
Hunter	Mrs Helen Macdonald 3268	ca 1917		canvas	oil	25.9 x 44
Hunter	William McLean 3157	ca 1929-1931		canvas	oil	61 x 50.8
Hunter	The Huntsman 2691	ca 1929-1931		canvas	oil	76.2 x 63.5
Hunter	Household, Loch Lomond 2307	ca 1924-1931		canvas	oil	43.2 x 53.3
Hunter	Loch Lomond 2304	ca 1924-1931		canvas	oil	50.8 x 66.2
Hunter	Old Linn with Bottle and Fruit 3739	1919		board	oil	
Hunter	The Blue Vase 3739	1919		board	oil	
Hunter	Johnston's Mill, Lower Longfins 3737			board	oil	
Hunter	Old Dog Seated by a Tree 2571	1907		canvas	oil	60.96 x 50.8
Hunter	Old Life of Tulips and Fruit 1914					

Fig.8: Excel Sheet List of Galleries & Paintings.
Image taken by Ruth Wright



Fig.9: Les Eus, 1910 by J D Fergusson
Oil on Canvas, The Hunterian

Conclusion

The Scottish Colourists are fairly well represented in galleries throughout Britain but unfortunately only a small percentage of their works is on display. The majority are in storage, so appointments have to be made to view these. Further research is needed on the artists' working practices and materials they used. This can be achieved by taking paint samples and scientific examination.

Acknowledgements: The Gallery Curators are thanked for all their help and contributions.

References: Long, P., Cumming, E., *Scottish Colourists 1900-1930*, Edinburgh: National Galleries of Scotland, Mainstream Publishing, 2000
Strang, A., Cumming, E., McGregor, S., *J D Fergusson*, Edinburgh: Trustees of the National Galleries Scotland, 2013