

Explore Our Campus Film Transcript. 13th April 2020.

This is Jane one of the curators of the University Art Collection. I am just going to give you a quick history of the collection and why we have so many wonderful paintings and sculptures which enhance the campus and hopefully everyone's experience of studying working or visiting the University.

In 1967 when the university was established there was an air of idealism and creativity in the zeitgeist with music, fashion, art and architecture leading the way.

The first Principal, Tom Cottrell, was young, he was in his early forties and must have been in touch with the spirit of the age. The new university's curriculum brought together the study of music, fine art poetry and science subjects. Remember this was a new university, the first one in Scotland for 400 years. They were reaching for new ideas and fresh ways of doing things.

So senior management at the time agreed to a unique policy which would contribute 1% of the building budget to collecting contemporary art. It was an inspired decision which sadly wasn't sustainable but it allowed early curators to gather a significant collection of Contemporary paintings and sculpture.

We were also able to acquire a wonderful Barbara Hepworth sculpture - Archaean through a generous celebratory donation from the Scottish Arts Council and JD Fergusson's partner Margaret Morris who knew Tom Cottrell gave the University 14 seminal paintings by Scottish Colourist.

They commissioned Mary Martin's piece, which hangs in the Crush Hall and bought Patrick Heron, Trevor Bell, Terry Frost, Justin Knowles artists who were capturing the energy of the era.

All the artworks are available to see displayed mainly in Pathfoot Building on a rotational basis and there are sculptures set in the campus landscape.

Pathfoot Building is itself a work of art, a sculptural form. It is architecturally listed as an outstanding modernist building of the 1960s.

When the university reopens again we'll be pleased to welcome you to see our exhibitions but meantime stay safe and well and you'll be hearing from us again.