



CITY OF BETHLEHEM

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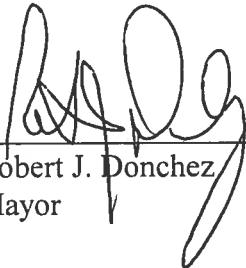
rdonchez@bethlehem-pa.gov

Robert J. Donchez
Mayor

From: Robert J. Donchez, Mayor
To: President Waldron
Date: March 27, 2019
Re: Removal of Artwork from the City's Collection

Please find attached a resolution and Exhibit allowing for the removal of several pieces of art from the City's collection. The pieces removed will be transferred to the Boutique at the Rink and any proceeds from the sale of the pieces will be donated to the cancer community of the Lehigh Valley.

I would appreciate it if this item would be placed on the April 2, 2019 City Council Agenda. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Robert J. Donchez
Mayor

CC: City Council
A. Karras

RESOLUTION NO.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bethlehem that:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 143 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bethlehem there is a Fine Arts Commission, and,

WHEREAS, the Fine Arts Commission (Commission) is tasked with a variety of functions including advising the Mayor and Council in matters concerning the fine arts, and,

WHEREAS, it is the finding and opinion of the Commission that several pieces of art have no value to the satisfaction of the Commission as noted in Exhibit A attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Bethlehem hereby authorizes the Mayor and Controller to execute the attached deaccession documents for the removal of the damaged pieces of art from the City's collection.

Sponsored by

ADOPTED by Council this

day of _____, 2019.

President of Council

ATTEST:

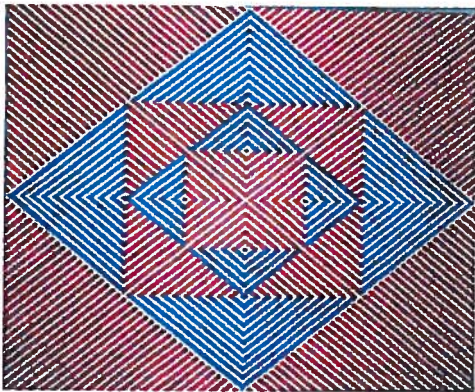
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

Recommendation for Disposal of Six Art Works from the City of Bethlehem Fine Arts Collection

It is recommended by the Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission that the following works be deaccessioned and transferred to the Boutique at the Rink for sale to benefit the cancer community of the Lehigh Valley. Drop off is May 1 – 7 with the hope City workers can assist with the move and transport of these works.

Respectfully submitted by Beverly Hoover
Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission Member
March 18, 2019



Title: *Topology 60*
Artist: Takashi Hagui
Date: 1965
Medium: Oil on canvas.
Dimensions: Framed: 64" x 51 3/4"



Title: Stop Light
Artist: Jim Houser
Date: Unknown
Medium: Acrylic on canvas.
Dimensions: 49" x 55"

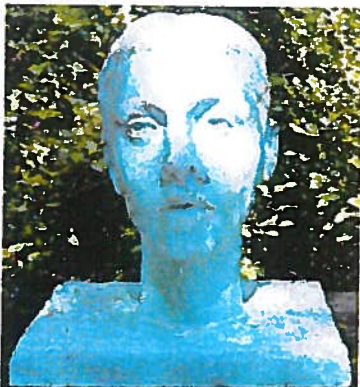


Title: *Untitled*
Artist: Unknown – *Japanese Woman*
Medium: Watercolor.
Dimensions: framed: 18 ¾" x 24 ½"



Title: *Untitled*
Artist: Unknown (Kevy?)
Medium: Oil on canvas.
Dimensions: framed: 49" x 49"

To be potentially offered back to the artist's widow or transferred to the Boutique at the Rink:



Title: *Janet Popyach*
Artist: Ben Marcune
Medium: Resin

To be disposed. Work is damaged beyond resale:



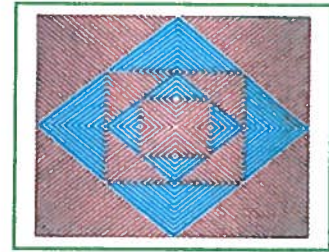
Artist: Albert William Christ Janer

Title: Oriental Landscape

Medium: lithograph

Description: Edition 30. Abstract
black and white.

Dimensions: framed: 25 ¼" x 35 ¾"



Deaccession Form

Artist: Takashi Hagui

Title: Topology 60

Date: 1965

Medium: Oil on canvas Framed: 64" x 51 3/4",
Size: Unframed: 53 1/4 x 51 1/4

Value: No value was able to be established from internet searches.

Credit
Line: _____

Reason for Deaccession: Condition is poor. Frame is falling apart and separating. There is no bottom frame. The canvas is scratched and paint chipping from the surface. Some creasing, cracking and cockling. Overall dirty

Donor Name: Unknown Date of Gift: _____

Donor Address: _____

Disposition:

_____ Sold _____ Exchanged Transferred _____ Returned _____ Destroyed

Other: _____

Approval/Rejection:

Date: 10/5/18 By: *Deni Thurman*
Chair, Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission

Date: _____ By: _____
Controller, City of Bethlehem

Date: _____ By: _____
Mayor, City of Bethlehem

Additional Notes: Two labels on back of painting. 1. Permanent Collection Label. Inventory #
O-5. 1967 gift. 2. Mi Chou Gallery label.



image showing paint loss and cracking



Deaccession Form

Artist: Jim Houser

Title: Street Light

Date: Unknown

Medium: Acrylic on Canvas Size: 49" x 55"

Value: No value was able to be established from internet searches.

Credit
Line: _____

Reason for Deaccession: Poor. Paint chipped with large scratch on lower left corner and crease marks. Green accretions (stains) on canvas, tear of canvas, dents in canvas. Overall dirty. Frame is falling apart and has nails popping through. Dirty with marks and steaks.

Donor Name: Unknown Date of Gift: _____

Donor Address: _____

Disposition:

_____ Sold _____ Exchanged Transferred _____ Returned _____ Destroyed
_____ Other: _____

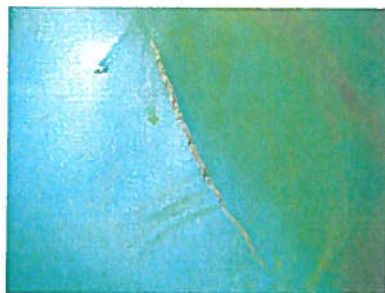
Approval/Rejection:

Date: 10/5/18 By: *Demi Thurman*
Chair, Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission

Date: _____ By: _____
Controller, City of Bethlehem

Date: _____ By: _____
Mayor, City of Bethlehem

Additional Notes: Auction records and internet searches were done to further identify the artist
and the value of his art. The only information found was a book *The Letters: Portrait of an Artist,*
Jim Houser by Connie Houser, his daughter, on Amazon. The book appears to illustrate this work
but no further information was able to be identified. Two Labels: 1. Permanent Collection Label.
Inventory A-3. 1967 purchase. 2. Jim Houser, Stop Light, Group Gallery.



Images show dents, large scratch and green staining



Deaccession Form

Artist: Albert William Christ Janer

Title: Oriental Landscape

Date: _____

Medium: Lithograph Size: Framed: 25 1/4" x 35 3/4"

Value: No value was able to be established from internet searches.

Credit
Line: Unknown

Reason for Deaccession: Poor condition. Mat warped, water stained. Frame badly
nicked/scratched. Water damage to cardboard backing. An attempt was made to remove the mat
from the print but it was adhered on and could not be removed unless by a conservator. The expense
to conserve this print outweighs its value.

Donor Name: _____ Date of Gift: _____

Donor Address: _____

Disposition:

_____ Sold _____ Exchanged Transferred _____ Returned _____ Destroyed

_____ Other: _____

Approval/Rejection:

Date: 10/5/18 By: Deni Thurman
Chair, Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission

Date: _____ By: _____
Controller, City of Bethlehem

Date: _____ By: _____
Mayor, City of Bethlehem

Additional Notes: Edition 30. Abstract black and white image. Auction records and internet
searches were done to further identify the artist and the value of his art. Seven works went to
auction, three went unsold. One comparable work sold for \$25.00. Two Labels: 1. Permanent
Collection Inventory # GL-8. 2. Associated American Artist (This label was removed from back).



Images show water damage to frame, backing and lithograph



Deaccession Form

Artist: Unknown

Title: Untitled – Japanese Woman

Date: _____

Medium: Watercolor Size: framed: 18 3/4" x 24 1/2"

Value: No value was able to be established from internet searches.

Credit Line: _____

Reason for Deaccession: Large irreparable tear from left edge to top right edge.

Donor Name: Sister City Tondabayashi (?) Date of Gift: _____

Donor Address: _____

Disposition:

_____ Sold _____ Exchanged Transferred _____ Returned _____ Destroyed

_____ Other: _____

Approval/Rejection:

Date: 10/5/18 By: *Dani Thurman*
Chair, Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission

Date: _____ By: _____
Controller City of Bethlehem

Date: _____ By: _____
Mayor, City of Bethlehem

Additional Notes: Japanese woman in a kimono. Since the artist is unknown as is the title of the
work it is difficult to identify a value. This may have been a gift from the Sister City Todabayashi,
Japan but no records can confirm this. The tear is significant and would require a print conservator
to repair. It is estimated the repair would cost more than the value of the watercolor.

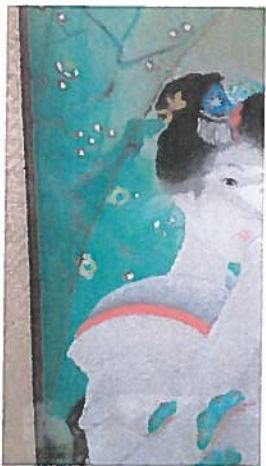


Image shows large tear on proper right edge going diagonally across the work



Deaccession Form

Artist: Unknown

Title: Untitled

Date: _____

Medium: Oil on Canvas Size: Framed: 49"x 49"

Value: No value was able to be established from internet searches.

Credit
Line: _____

Reason for Deaccession: Condition is poor. Frame is partially lost and very loose. The painting has indents, cockling, cracking of paint and is warped.

Donor Name: _____ Date of Gift: _____

Donor Address: _____

Disposition:

Sold Exchanged Transferred Returned Destroyed

Other: _____

Approval/Rejection:

Date: 10/5/18 By: Dani Thurman-Egan
Chair, Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission

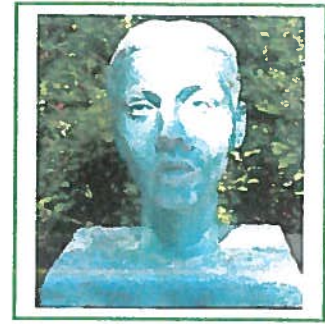
Date: _____ By: _____
Controller, City of Bethlehem

Date: _____ By: _____
Mayor, City of Bethlehem

Additional Notes: Abstract, loosely painted with broad, heavy brushstrokes and thin lines cut
into painting. Since the artist is unknown as is the title of the work it is difficult to identify a value. A
word that appears to be Keyv is on the painting but in searching that name no records came up for
an artist. The painting's condition and lack of information on the artist warrants its disposal.



image shows frame pulling from painting and the poor condition of the frame.



Deaccession Form

Artist: Ben Marcune

Title: Janet Popyach

Date: 1990s

Medium: Resin

Size: _____

Value: No value was able to be established from internet searches.

Credit

Line: _____

Reason for Deaccession: Condition is poor. Cracking in forehead, neck and on base. Large gauge in head and various small gauges throughout the piece. Loss to forehead and neck. The head was a pre-existing piece that the sculptor had around his studio. It is not a likeness of the subject. People who remember Ms. Popyach state that it does not resemble her. Starting in its early days on display and continuing to the present, the head has been a target of complaints about its ghostly color, a definitively striking and a vivid shade of blue. Ben Marcune said in September 2005 the sculpture could not be repaired. Repairs to this piece would be more expensive than the value of the sculpture.

Donor Name: Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission in memory of Janet Popyach


Date of Gift: August 1999

Disposition:

_____ Sold _____ Exchanged X Transferred _____ Returned _____ Destroyed

_____ Other: Attempts will be made to transfer this object to another institution

Approved:

Date: 10/5/18 By: 
Chair, Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission

Date: _____ By: _____
Controller, City of Bethlehem

Date: _____ By: _____
Mayor, City of Bethlehem

Additional Notes: Stylized portrait head of Janet Popyach donated by the Bethlehem

Fine Arts Commission and Ben Marcune in her memory. The artist Ben Marcune is deceased and

a value for the work was unable to be determined since there were no comparables on the

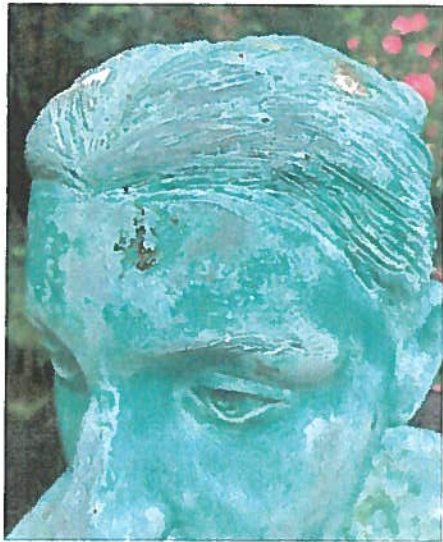
internet. It is hoped that a new memorial to Janet Popyach can be established.



Visible crack and staining on top of head



Further cracking on neck and base



Damage to forehead and gouge in hair



Cracking and gouge in head



Loss on neck