



Press Release
1 August 2017
[#GlasgowSchoolHeirs](#)

Whatever happened to the Glasgow Girls? The Glasgow School of Art and DACS join forces on campaign to trace artists' heirs owed royalties

A search is underway by DACS, the UK's flagship visual artists' rights management organisation, and the world-renowned Glasgow School of Art to find the heirs to the famous Glasgow Girls who are owed thousands in royalties.

The Glasgow Girls were associated with 'The Glasgow School' – a circle of influential artists and designers during the turn of the nineteenth century – all of whom studied and are associated with Glasgow School of Art. DACS has royalties for the acclaimed landscape painter Katherine Cameron (1874-1965), the renowned children's book illustrator Jessie Marion King (1875-1949) and one of the youngest Glasgow Girls, the talented artist Elizabeth Mary Watt (1885-1954).

While works by these Glasgow Girls sell for thousands of pounds, the whereabouts of their families are unknown. In the UK and parts of Europe, artists or their heirs are entitled to a royalty when their copyright protected work resells on the art market. Known as the Artist's Resale Right (ARR), DACS has thousands of pounds in royalties to pay to their eligible heirs and beneficiaries.

Now time is running out to unite these heirs with the ARR royalties owed to them. After six years, where heirs aren't found, DACS currently returns the royalties to the gallery, auction house or dealer that sold the work.

"We are delighted to lend our support to the campaign to ensure that the heirs to our celebrated alumni receive these royalties," says Susannah Waters, Archives and Collections Manager at The Glasgow School of Art "We would also love to hear from any family members to help GSA Archive and Collections to learn more about the life and times of our graduates."

Alongside these Glasgow Girls, DACS is searching for over 80 Scottish artists or their heirs, who are owed a total of £20,000 in ARR royalties. A list of some of the artists DACS is trying to trace can be found at <https://www.dacs.org.uk/for-beneficiaries-heirs/help-us-trace-scottish-artist-heirs>.

DACS needs to locate the artists or the artists' heirs and is asking for the public's help. Anyone who thinks they may have a lead should get in touch with the DACS Artists' Services Team at ArtistServices@dacs.org.uk.

Since ARR was introduced in the UK in 2006, more than 4,300 artists and estates have received over £56 million in ARR royalties via DACS. Occasionally, DACS receive royalties from sales of unrepresented artists, and these go through our formal tracing process. Last year, DACS successfully located the heirs of over 120 artists due almost £30,000 in royalties – sometimes crossing continents and reuniting families in the process.

Usually the beneficiary of the royalties will be the person or charity who has inherited the artist's copyright, but in some cases this will depend on whether the artist made a will and what the will states.

Contact

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Notes for the editors

About DACS

Established by artists for artists in 1984, DACS is a not-for-profit visual artists' rights management organisation, collecting and distributing royalties to artists and their estates through initiatives: Payback, Artist's Resale Right, Copyright Licensing and Artimage. Passionate about transforming the financial landscape for visual artists through innovative new products and services, DACS acts as a trusted broker for 100,000 artists worldwide. DACS is a flagship organisation that has and continues to campaign for artists' rights, championing their sustained and vital contribution to the creative economy. To date, DACS has paid over £90 million in royalties to artists and their estates – a significant source of income supporting artists' livelihoods, their practice and legacy. Find out more at dacs.org.uk

About the Artist's Resale Right

The Artist's Resale Right (ARR) provides a royalty for artists and artists' estates whenever their work is resold by a dealer, gallery or auctioneer for €1,000 or more. It was introduced in the UK 2006 and as of 1 January 2012, the Right was extended in the UK to cover sales of work by deceased artists still in copyright, which means that artists' heirs and beneficiaries will also be eligible for royalties. In the UK, copyright lasts for the lifetime of the artist plus 70 years after their death.

DACS is searching for the following Glasgow Girls as well as over 80 Scottish artists many who were alumni of The Glasgow School of Art:

Katherine Cameron (1874-1965)

An acclaimed landscape painter, book illustrator and etcher. She was one of the 'Glasgow Girls' and part of a group of women artists referred to as 'The Immortals'. Cameron studied at The Glasgow School of Art from 1889-1901 and later at the Atelier Colarossi, Paris. She was elected a member of the Glasgow Society of Lady Artists around 1893, and the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour in 1897. In 1928, she married the art collector Arthur Kay (1861-1939).

Jessie Marion King (1875-1949)

A renowned children's book illustrator and designer of jewellery, fabrics and pottery. One of the 'Glasgow Girls', King studied at The Glasgow School of Art in 1892 and taught there from 1899-1908. In 1908, she married the artist Archibald Ernest Taylor. They moved to Salford where their daughter Merle Elspeth was born. In 1910, they moved to Paris and in 1911, they opened the Sheiling Atelier School. King and Taylor moved to Kirkcudbright in 1915 and continued to work there until her death.

Elizabeth Mary Watt (1885-1954)

Born in Dundee on Valentine's Day 1885, Watt designed for woven fabric maker Joseph M Saddler before enrolling as a commercial colourist at The Glasgow School of Art. Later she

became a freelance artist and in 1919 was made a member of the Glasgow Society of Lady Artists and embarked on a lifetime of successful exhibiting until her death in 1954. Watt was one of the youngest 'Glasgow Girls' and was a contemporary of Jessie Marion King and close friend of Hesse Schotz, sister of Benno Schotz – one of Scotland's leading 20th century artists.

About The Glasgow School of Art's Archives and Collections

The Glasgow School of Art's archives and collections are an outstanding resource for the study of art, design, architecture and art education.

They comprise of a wide range of material from GSA's institutional archives to artworks and architectural drawings, textile pieces, plaster casts, photographs and furniture. Our holdings also include a large number of items by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his contemporaries.

The archives are open to researchers by appointment. Contact details:

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