

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

HAB166

Question Serial No.

0403

Head: 95 – Leisure and Cultural Services
Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Heritage and Museums

Controlling Officer: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Home Affairs

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 66 of the Budget Speech that the Financial Secretary proposes “additional funding of \$50 million for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department to acquire local visual artists’ outstanding artworks”. In this connection, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- a. the expected number of artworks that can be acquired with the proposed amount of money;
- b. the measures to enhance the transparency of the acquisition; and
- c. the plans to promote to the public the artworks acquired?

Asked by: Hon. CHUNG Shu-kun, Christopher

Reply:

- a. The additional funding of \$50 million allocated to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will be used to acquire and commission artworks by local artists for exhibition, public display and education/research purposes. As each piece of artwork is unique and the cost varies depending on its nature, scale and artistic merit, the number of artworks to be acquired with the proposed amount of money cannot be estimated.
- b. To ensure transparency in the acquisition of artworks by LCSD’s museums, the scope of collection and the criteria for acquisition have been uploaded onto the websites of the Hong Kong Museum of Art and Hong Kong Heritage Museum for public information. The criteria include artistic merit, relevance to museums’ collections, the physical condition, price, display and education value of the artworks, the reputation of the artist, etc.
- c. The artworks acquired will become museum collections which will be selected and displayed on a rotation basis in the permanent and thematic exhibitions in the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong Heritage Museum and other venues including the visual arts exhibition and activity centre at Oil Street which will open in mid-2013. New artworks by local artists will also be commissioned with the additional funding for display at government buildings, parks and open spaces etc., as well as in outbound exhibitions presented overseas and the Mainland to promote works of Hong Kong artists.

Name in block letters: Mrs. BETTY FUNG

Post Title: Director of Leisure and Cultural Services

Date: 19.3.2013