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## PAINTINGS SELL FOR THOUSANDS

# Recession fails to hit art sales

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ART collectors in the north-east are not feeling the pinch of the recession, judging by the response to a recent exhibition in Aberdeen.

Tens of thousands of pounds were spent on paintings by Udney-based artist Catriona Millar in a single evening after they went on display at Rendezvous Gallery in Forest Avenue.

It is believed that many now view art as a safe investment in the current climate of economic uncertainty.

Gallery owner Duane Mead said: "It was virtually a sellout.

"About 300 people turned up on the first day and about two-thirds of the paintings were sold within 15 to 20 minutes.

"Based on this, the recession doesn't seem to be affecting Aberdeen."

All but four of the 40 paintings which went on sale, each with an average price tag of £1,500, were snapped up by the time the exhibition closed.

One of the first paintings to be sold went for £6,250.

Ms Millar said that she was surprised to find how little the art world has been affected by the economic downturn.

She said: "I had great success with exhibitions in the past but that was before the credit crunch had kicked in.

"At a time like this people are looking for a return on their investments and buying art is still seen as a safe investment to make.

"Art can also offer an optimistic view of life and a type of escapism at times of predicted gloom like this."

All of the pieces were painted especially for the exhibition, which was planned two years in advance.