

December 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

Dear Andrew,

### **Hertfordshire Schools Collection**

As Head of Research in the School of Creative Arts, I write formally to confirm the School's interest in the Hertfordshire Schools Collection. It has cultural value in several ways. First, as a result of the summary survey undertaken by Helen Little, it is evident that the collection comprises work by artists of at least national and in some cases international standing, and is of very significant art historical interest. Over the past two decades, art historians, curators and museums have given significant attention to the work of British artists who worked outside the main international current of art history dominated largely by American art. Indeed, the Hertford Arts Hub and the University's shared interest in the later work of Alan Davie is predicated largely on the Davie's departure from trends in the United States while working in Hertford.

In addition, work by lesser known and indeed unknown artists in the collection is still of very significant art historical interest. Back in the post war period, it is fascinating to learn that councils and education authorities thought that school children might benefit from contact with contemporary artists. This is doubly fascinating because Hertfordshire is not alone in assembling such a collection. Other county council collections offer a similar insight into the tastes of the period containing works of international, national and - of no less significance - local interest. As such, Hertfordshire's School Collection forms a component part of a national as well as a local heritage and should, we believe, be preserved and shared accordingly.

I have discussed the collection with Helen Little - an authority on British art of the period - and with the University's curator Annabel Lucas, and we would be pleased to work with you to help support the preservation of the collection. I hope this is sufficient to underline our interest and our commitment to working with you in the future. Our financial and space resources at UH are inevitably limited, but there are many funding opportunities open to us that we might use to help share the collection with the community.

warm regards,

Steven

Dr Steven Adams Associate Dean Research School of Creative Arts

