The City of London, otherwise known as the Square Mile, is geographically and culturally unique, both within the UK and Internationally. Home to the financial and legal professions it is at once a cluster of dynamic business enterprise and the focal point of blame for the economic crisis. Alongside the controversy, the City is also one of the most historic areas of London, with exposed Roman ruins, libraries and museums sharing space with new high-rise office blocks and, increasingly, luxury penthouse apartments.

This paper examines the role of the City of London Corporation, and the Guildhall Art Gallery in particular, in shaping the cultural landscape of this historic and energetic space, bringing into focus new collecting strategies and initiatives for public sculpture that reposition the City as a space where art and commerce collide.

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