



department for  
culture, media  
and sport

Government Art Collection  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London, SW1Y 5DH  
www.gac.culture.gov.uk

# Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

---

## Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7 March 2005 at the Government Art Collection's London premises.

### Present

Chairman: Julia Somerville

Members: Dr Penelope Curtis, Sandy Nairne, Richard Dorment, Margot Heller,

Penny Johnson, Dr Charles Saumarez Smith, Sir Nicholas Serota, Sarah Shalgosky

GAC staff: Julia Toffolo, Adrian George, Kate Conroy, Malcolm Steer

### 1: Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Alan Davey.

### 2. Minutes from the Last Meeting

Minutes of the last Committee meeting on 9 December 2004 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

The Director again highlighted the recent refurbishment of part of HM Treasury building on Parliament Street, involving the PFI developers Stanhope Plc.

### 4. Acquisitions since December 2004

The Committee noted the Director's report on GAC acquisitions since 9 December 2004.

Decision on proposed acquisitions:

- The Committee considered three texts proposed by Mark Titchner for an accompanying work of art to his work **Everything beautiful is far away** and agreed that the Director should select the text.
- **Norfolk Ellipse** 2003 by Richard Long. The Committee looked at images of this flint and chalk sculpture and the Director was asked to widen her search for other works by this artist.
- **Painting the Town Red** and **Wedding Jange II** by the Singh Twins. The Committee approved the purchase of these two works.

### 5. New Home Office building, Marsham Street

Update of Art Enhancement, Public and Interior Arts Strategies and Communications. Adrian George gave a summary to the Committee of the overall progress of the three art strategies for the Home Office project. Sandy Nairne led congratulations to the GAC, on behalf of the Committee, for its management of the art strategies for the new Home Office building. The Committee also endorsed future involvement with art for new Government buildings (preferably at the earliest planning stage).

**6. Proposals for works of art for the new Deputy High Commission Office, Chennai**

The Director presented proposals for the new Deputy High Commission's Office in Chennai. The Committee agreed to commission a work by Simon Periton (subject to assurance on the durability of the material) and asked the Director to consider the work of other artists.

**7. Freedom of Information**

The Director gave the background to a paper on the impact of the Freedom of Information (Fol) Act since 1 January 2005. The opinion of the Committee was sought on the release of information regarding the purchase prices of works of art and the location of works of art. The Committee agreed that a uniform policy for a timescale for release of purchase prices should be obtained for public museum collections. This, it was suggested, could be achieved through a specialist group, which first met in February 2005 to discuss these Fol issues.

**8. Director's Report of GAC activities since 9 December 2004**

The Committee noted the contents of the Director's report.

**9. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 29 June 2005 at 16.30.