



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 Wednesday 9 March 2006 at the Government Art Collection's London Premises

Present

Chairman: Julia Somerville

Members: Dr. Penelope Curtis, Margot Heller, Penny Johnson (GAC Director), Dr. Charles Saumarez Smith, Sir Nicholas Serota, Nick Hackworth, Sarah Shagolsky, Alan Davey (DCMS)

GAC: Malcolm Steer, Adrian George

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Sandy Nairne.

The Chairman welcomed Nick Hackworth, as this was his first attendance as a member of the Committee.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Meeting (held on 9 November 2005) were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Freedom of Information: The continuing public and press interest in the release of purchase prices of works of art was discussed. It was agreed that a consistent museum-wide approach needed to be developed on the issue of the period of time after which commercial sensitivity over purchase prices tend to diminish, and that this would be discussed at a forthcoming meeting of the National Museum Directors Conference.

Project: EU Commission Building, Brussels ("Berlaymont")

The Director reported that a work of art by Sonia Boyce (Devotional II) had been installed at Berlaymont together with the Portfolio Folio by Michael Craig-Martin.

Project: New British Embassy, Skopje, Macedonia

The Director reported that the following works of art had been installed in this new building Blue I (painting by Mark Lancaster), Blind (mixed media by Alexandre da Cunha) We Fall into Patterns Quickly and New Façade (screenprints by Toby Patterson) Shelf-Like No.5 (Green) (sculpture by David Batchelor) and a Portfolio of 16 prints by David Shrigley.

4. Acquisitions

Acquisitions since 9 November 2005

The Committee noted the Director's list of acquisitions since the last Meeting.

Decisions on Proposed Acquisitions

- **Station** 2005 Cast marble resin by Darren Almond.
It was subsequently decided not to purchase the work.
- **13** 2004 DVD video by Simon Faithfull.
The Committee approved the purchase of this work.

5. New Home Office Building, Marsham Street

Update on Public Art Strategies, Interior Arts Strategies and Communications. Adrian George presented a written report on the above, including brief updates on the works commissioned from Roger Hiorns, Runa Islam, Emma Kay, Gary Webb, and Eva Rothschild.

6. Refurbishment of the DCMS Building, 2-4 Cockspur Street

Adrian George showed the Committee initial proposals from three artists (Simon Faithfull, Henna Nadeem and Catherine Bertola) for designs for manifestations on the new glass walls of meeting rooms. The Committee were happy to endorse the concept of manifestations in this context.

7. Other New Building and Refurbishment Projects

New British Embassy, Sana'a, Yemen: Initial proposals from Jenny West and D.J. Simpson were shown to the Committee, with the caveat that more work was needed to develop them, including the need to consider the design of the proposed works with regard to the most appropriate use of the space, in consultation with the architects (Design Engine).

50 Queen Anne's Gate: (new headquarters for the Department of Constitutional Affairs) This project is difficult to scope, as the DCA has yet to confirm the budget for an arts strategy for the building, but the Director reported that the GAC had submitted a list of artists to the DCA for consideration for commissions and/or purchases. In this context, it was noted that any proposals for structural changes to the building needed to be completed by the end of 2006.

8. Director's Report on GAC Activities since 9 November 2006

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

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 29 June 2006 at 16:30 hours.