



department for
**culture, media
and sport**

Government Art Collection
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Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12 March 2009 at the Government Art Collection's London premises

Present

Chairman: Julia Somerville

Members: Penelope Curtis, Stephen Deuchar, Sandy Nairne, Andrew Renton, Sarah Shalgosky

GAC: Penny Johnson, Julia Toffolo, Adrian George, Clive Marks

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from David A Bailey, Mick Elliott and Nicholas Penny.

2. Minutes of the Last Committee Meeting, held on 19 November 2008

The Committee approved the Minutes, which were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Director reported that the GAC's Acquisitions and Disposals Policy 2009-2013 had been agreed by the Permanent Secretary, Jonathan Stephens.

Penelope Curtis asked if there was any progress on the proposed GAC exhibition. The Director said that she was in discussion with the Whitechapel Gallery and was hopeful that something would be arranged for 2011/2012.

4. Acquisitions

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

The Committee approved the following works of art for acquisition:

- **Untitled: Shelves No 6** 2009 – sculpture by Matthew Darbyshire, £6,900 from Herald Street, London
- **Masks** 2006 – oil on canvas by Dan Perfect, £10,710 from Anne Berthoud, London
- **Lucian Freud painting the Queen 33/36** 2001 - photograph by David Dawson, £2,300 from Hazlett, Holland Hibbert
- **Map of Nowhere** 2008 – etching by Grayson Perry, £13,225 from Paragon Press, London (edition number purchased: 47/68)

5. Update on British Embassy, Warsaw

The Director outlined progress to date. The GAC was still working with the architect and FCO to find works of art for the new Embassy.

6. New project: British Embassy, Tbilisi

The Director showed plans of the Embassy and locations proposed for works of art. She said that a number of artists were being considered for the commission. The Committee felt that the space needed something bold rather than subtle and were content with the direction the project was taking.

7. New project: British Embassy, Jakarta

Adrian George presented examples of work by artists to be considered for this commission.

8. Update on art commissions

British Embassy, Algiers

Adrian George updated the Committee on discussions regarding artwork for the building.

British Embassy, Madrid

At a meeting in January a Portfolio of prints by Terry Frost, Eleven Poems by Federico García Lorca (1989), a kinetic sculpture by Liliane Lijn, Clear Light Mars Koan (2008) and a commission for the Staircase by Marta Marcé were approved by the FCO Project Sponsor and the Ambassador.

Ministry of Justice, London

Martin Boyce had confirmed the title of his work as Paper Leaves and Concrete Trees. Conrad Shawcross had completed his sculpture Axiom in February. Nathaniel Rackowe's commissioned piece of three kinetic, illuminated sculptures (subsequently given the title LP13) had been fully installed.

Home Office, London

Adrian George brought the Committee up to date on the installed works.

9. Director's Report of GAC activities since 19 November 2008

The Committee noted the report.

10. AOB

The Chairman noted that Iwona Blazwick, Director of the Whitechapel Gallery, had been appointed as the new Committee member.

The Director outlined the situation regarding the proposed work for Washington Embassy.

The Chairman asked about the bust of **Sir Winston Churchill** by Jacob Epstein (GAC16203), the loan of which to the White House had been terminated, as agreed, at the end of George W. Bush's term of office in January. The Director explained that the bust was now on display in a reception room at the Ambassador's Residence in Washington.

The Director drew attention to a front page article about the Collection in the press (Sunday Times 26 December 2008) relating to missing works, and reported that the article was misleading in its coverage. The GAC's commissions for the Ministry of Justice had featured in an article in the Daily Telegraph of 22 February, highlighting their costs.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 9 July 2009.