



# Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

---

## Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13 March 2014 at the Government Art Collection

### Present

David Verey (Chairman)

Penelope Curtis, Penny Johnson (GAC), Sandy Nairne, Clare Pillman

GAC: Adrian George, Roger Golding

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from David A. Bailey, Iwona Blazwick, Nicholas Penny and Andrew Renton.

### 2. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 14 November 2013 were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Update report on fund-raising options for the GAC's acquisitions

The Director reported that it seemed highly unlikely there was any scope for setting up a patrons group to raise money for acquisitions, due to the non-charitable status of the Collection. There followed a discussion of what other options might be pursued. These included discussions with charities such as the Art Fund on funding or part-funding of specific projects, and approaching artists' estates for donations. The challenge would be to articulate the public benefit arguments. The Committee agreed that further research including specific examples was needed.

### 4. Acquisitions

#### 4.1 Acquisitions since 14 November 2013

The Committee noted the Director's report.

#### 4.2 Acquisitions for consideration

The Committee approved the purchase of DFR302 by Alice Channer and Drone 1 by Alison Wilding.

#### 4.3 Approaches made to GAC for consideration

No works were approved for purchase by the Committee.

#### 4.4 Acquisition by gift for consideration

A set of botanical drawings by Hugo Haig-Thomas, original illustrations for A Handbook of the Yemen Flora, to be donated by the artist, were approved subject to a professional opinion from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

### 5. Portrait of Queen Victoria by Sir David Wilkie

A paper on the portrait, currently in the British High Commission in New Delhi, was discussed and the Committee was asked to give opinions on the future of the painting, which needs extensive restoration. The portrait is now considered to be the original version rather than a later copy, and so of relatively high importance. The Committee agreed that the best course would be to get the painting conserved in India if possible and find a suitable venue in India for its display.

**6. Government Art Collection 2013 – 14**

The Director reported on the progress of negotiations over potential accommodation in the Old Admiralty Building, Whitehall. Positive benefits of the location were highlighted.

The Director noted that a new Registrar had been appointed, to start in June, and that Robert Jones was taking early retirement after more than 28 years at the Collection.

**7. Director's Report of GAC activities since 14 November 2013**

The Committee noted the Director's report.

Sandy Nairne asked for more information on the nature of the GAC's involvement in advising on the memorial panels to commemorate the First World War, and the Director expanded on this.

**8. AOB**

There was no other business.