



Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 March 2015 at the Government Art Collection

Present

David Verey, Chairman

Susan Collins, Penelope Curtis, Penny Johnson (GAC), Clare Lilley, Nicholas Penny

GAC: Adrian George, Clive Marks

1. Apologies for absence/welcome new members

Apologies were received from David A Bailey, Iwona Blazwick and Clare Pillman. The Chairman gave a warm welcome to the two new members of the Committee, Susan Collins and Clare Lilley.

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 13 November 2014

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Portrait of Queen Victoria by Sir David Wilkie

The GAC has contacted the Hamilton-Kerr Institute, who have worked on a conservation project in Kolkata, for advice.

3.2 Acquisition and Disposal policy

The policy had been amended in response to the Committee's comments and had been agreed by the Permanent Secretary of DCMS.

4. Update on fundraising options for the GAC's acquisitions

The Director informed the Committee that the Minister requested more work be done on the proposals and another member of the Project team had been allocated the task.

The Committee discussed the issues surrounding the formation and management of a patron's group. Based on their experience members noted that a small team like the GAC was unlikely to have the resources or skills to set-up and manage such a group. Their own organisations had dedicated teams working full time in what was challenging terrain with a small number of sponsors being courted by many organisations.

The Director informed the Committee of two gifts from artists to the Collection:

Jyll Bradley

No4 Their flight is knowledge, space is the alienation

Light drawing. Given in memory of the artist's aunt.

Francesca Simon

Double Girder Crane 1

acrylic painting

At this point the future accommodation of the GAC was raised. The Director informed the Committee that DCMS Finance and Facilities had submitted a paper to the Minister for Culture recommending the move of the GAC to the Old Admiralty Building. The paper stressed the economic and operational advantages of such a move. The building would be shared with the Department of Education who are keen to have the GAC as co-tenants.

5. Acquisitions

5.1 Acquisitions since 13 November 2014.

The Committee noted the acquisitions.

The Director highlighted the gift by the Zabłudowicz Collection of an acrylic painting **Grey Painting: Text Version 54 (Framed by Grey Painting: Text Version 10 2008)** by Philomene Pirecki. The gift resulted from Anita Zabłudowicz offering to bid on Paddle8 online auction for a work selected by the GAC from the display at the South London Gallery.

5.2 Acquisitions for consideration

The Committee recommended the following acquisitions.

Güler Ates (b. 1977)

Emptiness of Light I 2013

photograph, 93 x 66 cm

£1,827.50 (£2,150 (unframed) less 15 % discount, sold under the VAT margin scheme), Art First, London

Eternal Maharana and She (II) 2013

photograph, 83 x 58 cm

£1,912.50 (£2,250 (unframed) less 15 % discount, sold under the VAT margin scheme), Art First, London

Damien Hirst (b. 1965)

Beautiful Portrait, 'The Queen' 2014

household gloss on canvas, 152.4 cm

Proposed gift by Science Limited

Jon Thompson (b. 1936)

Toronto Cycle # 21. Between Bayview and Yonge 2012

oil on canvas, 178 x 153 cm

£21,600 (£22,500 less 20% discount + VAT), Anthony Reynolds Gallery, London

The Committee agreed that the Collection should bid up to £2,000 (including buyer's premium) for Florence Martin's **A Breath of Fresh Air** at Bonham's auction house.

6. Government Art Collection 2015 – 18

The Director updated the Committee on the latest staff changes, Jane Fisher has joined the GAC as Registrar replacing the Temporary Registrar, Andrew Basham.

7. Director's report of GAC activities since 13 November 2014

The Committee noted the report.

8. AOB

As this was Nicholas Penny's last Advisory Committee meeting prior to his retirement from his post as Director, National Gallery, the Chairman, supported by members, thanked him for his valuable contributions during his time and wished him well in his future endeavours.

9. Date of next meeting

16 July 2015 (subsequently moved to 15 July)