



Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 November 2017 at the Government Art Collection

Present:

Sir David Verey CBE - Chair

Ex Officio:

Nicholas Cullinan - Director, National Portrait Gallery

Gabriele Finaldi - Director, National Gallery

Penny Johnson - Director, GAC

Clare Pillman - Director, DCMS

Independent:

Iwona Blazwick - Director, Whitechapel Gallery

Susan Collins - Professor and Director, Slade School of Art

Melanie Keen - Director, Iniva

Clare Lilley - Director of Programme, Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Ben Luke - Critic and Writer on the Visual Arts

GAC staff in attendance: Roger Golding, James Morrison, Andrew Parratt

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Alex Farquharson.

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 12 July 2017

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising

- The GAC Director updated the Committee on the portrait of Queen Victoria. The Director of the Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai has advised the GAC to wait before making a formal approach to the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. Funding has been secured for conservation.
- As this was the last Committee meeting for Iwona Blazwick and Clare Pillman, the Chair thanked them warmly for their contributions.

4. Acquisitions

4.1 Acquisitions since 12 July 2017

The Committee noted the acquisitions.

4.2 Acquisitions for consideration

After discussions by the Committee and in compliance with the criteria in the GAC's Acquisitions Policy, the Committee agreed the acquisition of the following works:

4.2.1 Purchased by the GAC

JENNIFER DOUGLAS (BORN 1975)

A Tacit Understanding (Silver / Slate) 2017

Silver leaf, floor paint on linen, 150 x 120 cm

EMMA HART (born 1974)

Get Back In Your Shell Like 2017

Glazed ceramic and steel, 57 × 56 × 70 cm

HAROON MIRZA (born 1977)

Energy/Power (Solar Powered LED circuit 36) 2017

Addressable LED, wire, copper tape, solder, acrylic gel, Arduino on photovoltaic panel, 164 x 100 x 3.5 cm

PREM SAHIB (born 1982)

Stone 2017

Steel drinking fountain, resin, 23 x 38.5 x 39 cm, edition of 3 plus 1 AP, this is the AP

4.2.2 Outset/Government Art Collection Fund

RICHARD WENTWORTH (born 1947)

A Russian Ship from the set of The Repatriations 2017

Inkjet facsimiles and mapping pins, 45.4 x 60.2 x 5 cm (framed)

Only one work from the set was available to view and the remaining works were presented with images. It was agreed to accept the whole set.

4.2.3 Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2017

The GAC Director and Andrew Renton saw the 2017 Bloomberg New Contemporaries exhibition at BALTIC and BALTIC 39 on 28 September, the day of the opening. Relooking at the works which had been earmarked in April and now presented in the exhibition, and taking the views of the Committee into account, they confirmed acquisition of the following two works before the opening.

DAREK FORTAS (born 1986)

Structure VII 2016

From the series Skene 2016, handmade C-type print from large format negative, 120 x 140 cm

MICHAELA YEARWOOD-DAN (born 1994)

Two's, Two 2016

Oil on canvas, 160 x 240 cm

The works were not available to show the Committee, as the exhibition continues on tour until March 2018.

5. Proposed print project sponsorship

The Committee was informed and asked for views about a significant sponsorship project. The GAC has been approached by a philanthropic couple via Outset to sponsor the commissioning of one artist per year over ten years to make prints for the GAC. The amount offered is £50,000 per year. After discussion it was agreed by the Committee that the GAC should continue to explore this project further.

6. Update on the exhibition An Eyeful of Wry

An Eyeful of Wry, a GAC exhibition opened to the public on 20 October at the Brynmor Jones Library

gallery, University of Hull, as part of the fourth season of Hull's UK City of Culture 2017. On 19 October, the press view attracted interest from BBC North, regional journalists and social media sites. That day, the exhibition was formally opened by Sue Owen, Permanent Secretary for DCMS at a private view hosted by Professor Glenn Burgess (Deputy Vice-Chancellor and University City of Culture lead), John Bernasconi, (Director, University of Hull Art Collection) and the GAC Director. The exhibition continues until 26 November 2017.

Every member of the GAC team was involved with the exhibition, from the early planning stages to final installation. Chris Christophorou, Technician and Tony Harris, Digital Media and Photography Officer, installed the works in the show, assisted by an excellent and enthusiastic team of the University's on-site technical staff.

7. Government Art Collection - verbal update

The GAC Director updated the Committee on the current plans for the GAC's move to the Old Admiralty Building (OAB). This is scheduled for spring 2019 and a DCMS member of staff has been assigned to project manage the move.

8. Director's report of GAC activities since 12 July 2017

The Committee noted the report.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 15 March 2018