



Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 March 2018 at the Government Art Collection

Present:

Sir David Verey CBE - Chair

Ex Officio:

Alex Farquharson - Director, Tate Britain

Penny Johnson - Director, GAC

Giles Smith - Director, DCMS

Independent:

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

Mary Ann Prior - Art Curator and Advisor

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Nicholas Cullinan and Gabriele Finaldi.

2. Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2017

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising

- The GAC Director updated the Committee on the portrait of Queen Victoria. During a trip to India in February/March 2018, the GAC Director visited INTACH conservation studio in New Delhi to help move the project forward. A formal agreement from Dr. Bhau Dhaji Lad Museum is now being sought. The conservation programme is still planned for 2018.
- The Chair introduced a new independent Committee member: Mary Ann Prior, Art Curator and Advisor.

4. Acquisitions

4.1 Proposal to purchase work by women artists in FY 2018-19

The Committee was invited to consider the proposal to restrict purchases to works by women artists during the financial year 2018-19 to commemorate the centenary of the Representation of the People's Act. The GAC has been strengthening the representation of women artists in the Collection and the current centenary is an appropriate moment to make a significant push in this regard.

Whilst only works by women artists will be bought by the GAC, gifts and works via the Outset/GAC Fund by male artists would continue to be acquired if appropriate.

After discussion the proposal was agreed by the Committee.

4.2 Acquisitions since 15 November 2017

The Committee noted the acquisitions.

4.3 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:

4.3.1 Purchased by the GAC

MICHAEL ARMITAGE (born 1984)

The Octopus's Veil 2016

Oil on Lubugo bark cloth, 220 x 170 cm

SHIRAZ BAYJOO (born 1980)

En Famille 2015

Acrylic, resin and photographic transfer on wood, 47.5 x 30.5 cm, set of nine works

CEFYN BURGESS (born 1961)

Capel Nazareth, Drofa Dulog, Patagonia 2017

Stitched cotton and flannel, ink, 41 x 72 cm (framed)

Glan Alaw Chapel, Patagonia 2017

Stitched cotton and flannel, ink, 41 x 72 cm (framed)

PAUL LEE (born 1974)

Picture Place 2016

Tambourine, acrylic and canvas, 52.1 x 52.1 x 5.1 cm

RACHEL MACLEAN (born 1987)

Pic 2017

Digital print on archival paper, framed, 70 x 100 cm

ABE ODEDINA (born 1960)

Chance 2016

Acrylic on plywood, 122 x 80.5 cm

THOMAS J PRICE (born 1981)

Sportswear (Achilles Street) 2011

Bronze, perspex and wooden base, 175 x 36 cm, edition of 3 plus 1 artist's proof (# 2 / 3)

4.3.2 Approach to GAC

EDMOND BROCK (1882-1952)

Portrait of Ramsay MacDonald c. 1934/35

Oil on canvas, 76.2 x 63.5 cm

The Committee recommended that a professional valuation should be sought.

4.3.3 Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2018

Curators of Information and Research (Modern & Contemporary), Chantal Condron and Jessica Cerasi, viewed works selected for the 2018 Bloomberg New Contemporaries (BNC) exhibition on 6 March with a view to the GAC purchasing one or more works. Works most appropriate for the Collection were identified and images of these were presented to the Advisory Committee for their opinion on which works the GAC should consider. The artist names are not known at this stage.

Following the Committee meeting, the GAC will let the BNC know which works from the selection they would still like to consider and will view the works at Liverpool John Moores University (as part of the Liverpool Biennial) in July 2018, with an Advisory Committee member if available, prior to the public opening of the exhibition.

5. New GAC organisational structure

The Committee was informed of the new GAC team structure that was implemented from January 2018.

6. Government Art Collection - verbal update

The GAC Director updated the Committee on the proposed print project sponsorship which was discussed at November's meeting. The GAC are continuing to explore this project further.

7. Director's report of GAC activities since 15 November 2017

The Committee noted the report.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 11 July 2018