



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 29 June 2005 at the Government Art Collection's London premises.

Present

Chairman: Julia Somerville

Members: Dr Penelope Curtis, Sandy Nairne, Richard Dorment, Margot Heller, Penny Johnson, Dr Charles Saumarez Smith, Sir Nicholas Serota

GAC staff: Julia Toffolo, Adrian George, Kate Conroy, Malcolm Steer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Alan Davey and Sarah Shalgosky.

2. Minutes from the Last Meeting

Minutes of the last Committee meeting on 7 March 2005 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

Chennai: The Director reported that the commissioned piece *Haberdasher* by Simon Periton is due to be installed in the new Deputy High Commission Office, Chennai in September along with *Aniela*, singer by Julian Opie.

Freedom of Information: The Committee agreed that further consideration should be given to the question of the time frame for the release of purchase prices of works of art (not already in the public domain) acquired by public galleries/institutions. It was suggested that the National Museum Directors' Conference would be a good forum to discuss this further.

4. Acquisitions since 7 March 2005

The Committee noted the Director's list of GAC acquisitions since 7 March 2005.

Decision on proposed acquisitions.

Portrait of the **Hon. Charlotte Stuart and the Hon. Louisa Stuart, Daughter of Sir Charles Stuart, Baron Stuart De Rothesay** 1830 by Sir George Hayter. The Director showed an illustration of the painting, which was due to be auctioned at Sotheby's, London on 30 June 2005. The Committee approved the bidding of the painting up to its full estimate.

The Committee approved the purchase of the following works:

- **London** 1980 by Gilbert and George
- **Our Distant Relatives** 2004 by Jane Simpson
- **The Doors (LA Woman)** 2005 by Jim Lambie

5. European Commission Building, Berlaymont, Brussels

The Director provided background to a European wide request from Jan Figel (European Commissioner for Education, Culture) for the loan of works of art to the newly renovated European Commission Offices in Brussels until October 2009.

6. New Home Office building, Marsham Street

Adrian George provided an update of the Public and Interior Arts Strategies.

7. New Building and Refurbishment projects

New British Embassy, Sana'a, Yemen: The Director gave a presentation about the new British Embassy building in Sana'a, Yemen, accompanied by architects' impressions. The GAC will be working with the FCO on commissioning art for the new building.

Refurbishment of Queen Anne's Gate, London: The Director explained that the former headquarters of the Home Office at Queen Anne's Gate is to be refurbished to accommodate the Department for Constitutional Affairs in 2007. The GAC had held preliminary discussions with DCA about the provision of art for the building. The Committee advised the GAC to actively pursue involvement in the project, given the building's architectural (architect: Sir Basil Spence).

8. Director's Report of GAC activities since 7 March 2005

The Committee noted the contents of the Director's report.

9. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 9 November 2005 at 16.30.