



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 9 November 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: Julia Toffolo, Kate Conroy, Malcolm Steer, Chantal Condron, Adrian George

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Alan Davey, Nick Serota and Penelope Curtis.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 29 June 2005 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

Implication of recent PFI projects for the role of the GAC: A letter was sent to the Permanent Secretaries of other Government departments outlining the benefits of GAC involvement at an early stage of planning new buildings and major refurbishments.

Chennai: The Director reported that the commissioned piece *Haberdasher 2005* by Simon Periton, along with *Aniela*, singer by Julian Opie, had now both been installed in the new Deputy High Commission Offices in Chennai.

Freedom of Information: The issue of the public release of purchase prices paid for acquisitions was raised at the recent National Museum Directors' Conference.

4. Acquisitions since 29 June 2005

The Committee noted the Director's list of GAC acquisitions since 29 June 2005.

The following works of art were approved for purchase by the Committee:

- **Fantôme Créole Series (Papillon no.1)** 2005 by Isaac Julien.
- **Untitled (woman and child)** 2005, a photograph by Paul Seawright.
- **Time and Place** 2004, sculpture by Richard Wentworth

The following works of art were recommended for purchase for display at the new British Embassy, Skopje, funded by the FCO:

- **Blind** 2005 by Alexandre da Cunha
- **Untitled** (16 Etchings) 2005 by David Shrigley

5. European Commission Building, Berlaymont, Brussels

The Director updated the Committee on the proposed works of art for display in the Berlaymont building.

6. New Home Office building, Marsham Street

Adrian George gave a project update about the Public and Interior Arts Strategies and Communications plans.

7. New Building and Refurbishment projects

New British Embassy, Sana'a, Yemen: Adrian George outlined plans for the commissioning of works of art for this new building in Sana'a. The artists' proposals will be sent to Committee members for approval in order to confirm the commissions. Installation is scheduled for summer 2006.

Refurbishment of Queen Anne's Gate for the Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA), London: The Director reported that the GAC submitted an arts strategy to DCA in July 2005 with a follow up meeting in September and is now awaiting the outcome of the proposals.

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

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

9. Any Other Business

The Chairman and Director expressed their appreciation to Richard Dormant for his considerable contribution to the GAC Advisory Committee over the last decade. This was his final meeting.

10. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 9 March 2006 at 16.30.