



department for  
culture, media  
and sport

Government Art Collection  
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# Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

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**Summary of minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 22 November 2006 at the Government Art Collection's London premises.**

## **Present**

Chairman: Julia Somerville

Members: Dr. Penelope Curtis, Margot Heller, Sandy Nairne, Sarah Shalgosky, Penny Johnson (GAC Director)

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

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Stephen Deuchar and Alan Davey.

## **2. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting (held on 29 June 2006) were subject to several minor changes. The Committee approved these changes and agreed that the amended Minutes could be signed off by the Chairman outside the Meeting.

## **3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Recent PFI Projects and the GAC: There was no update to report.

Freedom of Information: The Director reported that enquiries had been received concerning the works of art by Emma Kay and Eva Rothschild commissioned by the Home Office.

## **4. Acquisitions**

Acquisitions since 29 June 2006: The Committee noted the Director's list of acquisitions since the last Meeting.

Decision on Proposed Acquisitions: The Committee approved the purchase of the following works of art:

- **Bach...six suites for the solo cello** 2006 Lambda digital C print mounted on aluminium by Idris Kahn

The Committee approved the purchase of this work from Victoria Miro.

- **On Moddard's Screen** 2006 Oil on canvas by Andy Harper

The Committee approved the purchase of this work from the Artist.

- **Isle of Wight** Aug 97 Sunlight on wood, 2 parts by Roger Ackling.

The Committee approved the purchase of this work from Annely Juda.

- **Time here becomes space / Space here becomes time** by Cerith Wyn Evans

The Director showed images of this neon, made up of two separate pieces. The Committee had discussed this work in the previous Meeting (29 June 2006) and now approved its purchase.

- **Station** 2005 Cast marble resin by Darren Almond.  
The Committee reconsidered this work and approved the purchase from White Cube.

The Committee viewed several works by Eva Weinmayr which form part of a 7 piece series ("Today's Question"). The Committee asked Adrian George to check on availability of the entire series or to consider how many of the seven works would be appropriate for the Collection.

#### **5. Sculpture for the Ambassador's Residence, Washington, DC**

The Director had reported in the previous Meeting that the UK Ambassador to Washington wanted to acquire an outdoor sculpture for display in the Residence Garden. The Ambassador had suggested placing the proposal on hold until the next Ambassador was in Post, which the Committee approved.

#### **6. New British Embassy, Doha, Qatar**

The new glass wall of a first floor Meeting Room forms the main commission brief. The Committee suggested that Jonathan Parsons develop his proposals further.

#### **7. Update on New Building and Refurbishment Projects**

Department for Constitutional Affairs, 50 Queen Anne's Gate: The Director explained that the proposed artists had experienced problems with access to the building to enable them to formulate proposals, but proposals had been received from several artists. The Committee advised the Director to develop proposals further before putting them forward to the DCA.

British Embassy, Sana'a, Yemen: Adrian George reported that the GAC was working with the FCO and Jenny West to arrange a mutually convenient date for the installation of her work of art.

#### **8. UK Supreme Court, Middlesex Guildhall (DCA)**

The Director reported that the DCA had commissioned an extensive art strategy for the building from the freelance consultants Modus Operandi but had asked the GAC to implement the strategy's contents. The GAC had attended several meetings with the project architects, Feilden & Mawson. The GAC was willing to administer an art strategy for the project, but one which it initiated and controlled itself. The Committee asked the Director to give the issues further consideration, especially following a meeting due to take place with the project art committee, on Friday 24 November.

**9. New Home Office Building, Marsham Street**

Adrian George updated the Committee on developments concerning works of art commissioned from Georgie Hopton, Simon Periton, Gary Webb and Emma Kay and Eva Rothschild. Work on the joint HO and DCMS Booklet Art at the Home Office is progressing well, but its timing was now dependent upon the completion of the remaining works of art. The Art Trail had been produced and updated.

**10. Director's Report on GAC Activities since 29 June 2006**

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

**11. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 7 March 2007 at 16:30 hours.