



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 21 November 2007 at the Government Art Collection's London premises

Present

Chairman: Julia Somerville

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

GAC: Adrian George, Clive Marks, Julia Toffolo

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from David A. Bailey, Alan Davey, Stephen Deuchar and Martin Wylde (Acting Director of the National Gallery).

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting, held on 5 July 2007

The Committee approved the Minutes, which were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Director provided an update on the proposed sculpture for the garden of the Ambassador's Residence in Washington, DC, the situation remaining much as it was at the last meeting.

Public Catalogue Foundation Catalogue on Oil Paintings in the Government Art Collection The Director reported that the catalogue was undergoing its final proofing stage and would be given a press launch at the GAC on 6 December. This would be followed by a reception on 14 January 2008 to mark its publication, to be held at 10 Downing Street.

4. Acquisitions

The Committee noted the Director's list of acquisitions since the last Meeting.

The Committee viewed the following works and approved their acquisition, subject to funding being available:

- **Peter's I** 2007 oil on canvas by Hurvin Anderson
- **A very BIG bean I thought to myself** 2-part unique work by Ryan Gander
- **Time after Time: Blow Up No.12** photographic print on aluminium by Ori Gersht
- **The Rose Gardens (display: II) (1)** 2007, photographic print on aluminium by Sarah Jones

For further Consideration:

- **Muscles** 2007 armature, fabric, plaster, glass beads and painted steel sculpture by Eva Rothschild

The acquisition of **An Alphabet**, a new portfolio of 26 silkscreen prints by Peter Blake was approved. This is to be funded by DCMS for display in the refurbished DCMS building.

The Committee also approved the possible acquisition at auction at Sotheby's on 22 November 2007 of a portrait of **John Thurloe (1616-1668)** by Thomas Ross (active 1730-46) (Lot 12). The sitter was in charge of foreign affairs and the intelligence service during the Commonwealth.

5. Commissions for the new Ministry of Justice building (50 Queen Anne's Gate)

Following approval at the previous Committee Meeting, the GAC had approached several additional artists to determine their interest in and/or availability for working on a proposal for the café area of the building and for a DVD/CD-ROM (dispersed/multiple) art project. These new proposals were presented to the Committee, who recommended that two should be developed.

6. Commissions for the new British Embassy, Algiers

The building is due to be completed in the summer of 2008. The Committee viewed works by artists suggested by the GAC, for siting in locations discussed and agreed with the FCO and the architect.

7. Home Office Commissions: Update

Adrian George reported on progress on works.

8. Director's Report on GAC Activities since July 2007

The Committee accepted the report.

The Director also reported the posting of an interview with the artist Jenny West on the GAC's website and its availability as a podcast, a first for the GAC. The artist talks about her sculpture One Thousand Four Hundred and Forty to Zero, commissioned for the new British Embassy in Sana'a, Yemen in 2007.

9. Date of next Meeting:

Wednesday 5 March 2008.