



department for
**culture, media
and sport**

Government Art Collection
2-4 Cockspur Street
London, SW1Y 5DH
www.gac.culture.gov.uk

Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5 March 2008 at the Government Art Collection's London premises

Present

Chairman: Julia Somerville

Members: Stephen Deuchar, Margot Heller, Penny Johnson (GAC Director), Sandy Nairne, Nicholas Penny, Andrew Renton, Sarah Shalgosky

GAC staff: Adrian George, Clive Marks, Julia Toffolo

1. Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed Nicholas Penny to the Committee. Apologies were received from David Bailey, Penelope Curtis and Andrew Ramsay (Director, Creativity, Culture & Economy Group, DCMS)

2. Minutes of the Last Committee Meeting, held on 21 November 2007

There was one correction (Martin Wyld's surname). Otherwise, the Committee approved the Minutes, which were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Project: UK Supreme Court

The Director reported that the GAC had discussed the removal of works of art from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in Downing Street, and their eventual installation in the new Supreme Court building (Middlesex Guildhall), planned for the summer of 2009.

4. Acquisitions

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

The Committee approved the following works of art for acquisition:

- **Serpent of the Nile** 1/3 2007 - C-type photograph by Hew Locke.
- **Shaman** 2006 - oil on canvas by Elizabeth Magill.
- **Muscles** 2007 - armature, fabric, plaster, glass beads, paint and painted steel sculpture by Eva Rothschild.

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

It was reported that the Ministry of Justice has decided to proceed with commissions recommended by GAC.

6. Update on Commissions for the new British Embassy, Algiers

The Director updated the Committee on the proposals.

7. Update on Commissions for the Home Office

The update prompted a discussion on the lessons that could be learned from the experience of commissioning site-specific work using the financial resources of Government Departments other than the DCMS.

8. Director's Report on GAC Activities since the last Meeting

The Committee noted the report.

9. AOB

The Director reported that on 20 February 2008 two paintings belonging to the GAC had been reported as missing, presumed stolen, from Somerset House (Somerset House Trust (SHT)). These two paintings are **Sir William Chambers (1726-96)** by Francis Cotes (GAC0-252) and **Shipping** by John T. Serres (GAC3158), both lent to the building in February 2006. In order to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future, the Director reported that organisations with works on loan from GAC were being reminded of the need for tight security and regular monitoring.

The Committee confirmed that they had all received a copy of the recently-published Public Catalogue Foundation's volume on the oil paintings held by the GAC.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Margot Heller, whose term as a member of the Committee had now come to an end.

10. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 3 July 2008.