



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 19 November 2008 at the Government Art Collection's London premises

Present

Chairman: Julia Somerville

Members: David A Bailey, Stephen Deuchar, Penny Johnson (Director), Sandy Nairne, Andrew Renton, Sarah Shalgosky

GAC staff: Julia Toffolo, Adrian George, Clive Marks

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Penelope Curtis, Mick Elliott, Sandy Nairne and Nicholas Penny.

2. Minutes of the Last Committee Meeting, held on 3 July 2008

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

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Director reported the recovery of the two GAC paintings, **Sir William Chambers (1726-96)** by Francis Cotes (GAC0-252) and **Shipping** by John T. Serres (GAC3158), stolen from the premises of the Somerset House Trust in February.

The Director reported that discussions regarding the staging of a GAC exhibition are taking place.

4. Acquisitions

GAC Acquisitions and Disposal Policy. The Committee agreed the policy, which will now be forwarded for DCMS Board approval.

Acquisitions: current position. The Director reported that the acquisition budget has been spent.

Acquisitions since 3 July 2008. The Director reported that the GAC had co-purchased with the FCO a print of **Elizabeth II** by Andy Warhol, for display in the UK Ambassador to the UN's Residence in New York.

New British Embassy, Algiers

The Director outlined the current position regarding commissions

6. New project: British Embassy, Madrid

Following a meeting with the Ambassador, GAC outlined two proposals for the interior of the Embassy: a wall drawing for the stairwell and a kinetic piece for the Entrance Hall. The Committee agreed this approach.

7. British Embassy, Warsaw

The Director reported that to date, no artist had been short-listed for the commission.

8. Update on art commissions

The Committee received in its advance papers an update on commissioned projects. Those at the High Commission Office, Colombo and the British Embassy, Manila have been completed.

It is anticipated that the remaining commissions at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), London will be completed by February 2009. Once installed, the Committee would then have the opportunity to tour the building.

Adrian George reported that lessons learned during the Home Office commissions had helped ensure a smoother process for the MoJ project.

9. Director's Report of GAC activities since 3 July

The Director reported that a proposal had been received for a half-hour programme about the GAC. We are waiting to hear from the producer whether it will be taken forward.

10. AOB

The Director reported that the recommendation for the new member of the Committee is with the Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism and a decision is expected before the end of the year.

11. Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 12 March 2009.