



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 Thursday 9th July 2009 at the Government Art Collection's London premises

Present

Chairman: Julia Somerville

Members: Iwona Blazwick, Penelope Curtis, Andrew Renton, Sarah Shalgosky, Mick Elliott

GAC: Penny Johnson, Julia Toffolo, Adrian George, Clive Marks

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from David A Bailey, Stephen Deuchar, Sandy Nairne and Nicholas Penny.

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 12 March 2009

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

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

None

4. Acquisitions

The Committee noted the acquisitions made since 12 March 2009.

The Committee reviewed and discussed a number of possible acquisitions. The following works of art were approved for acquisition:

Frank Bowling (born 1936)

Kaiteurtoo (from the series Poured paintings), 1975

Acrylic on canvas

184.4 x 105.4 cm

£20,000 discounted to £17,500 inclusive of VAT

Rollo Contemporary Art, London

Mary Martin (born 1951)

White Diagonal 1963

Stainless steel, formica and wood

60 x 60 x 10.4 cm

£28,000 discounted to £22,000 inclusive of VAT

Annely Juda, London

The Director was asked to negotiate a further discount or enhanced purchase for Nelson's Ship in a Bottle 2009 by Yinka Shonibare. Two sets of Paul Graham photographs were once again considered and a decision on them postponed until the Committee had had a chance to see them.

5. British Embassy projects (verbal update)

Warsaw – The Director outlined progress to date and her discussions with the architect. She noted that a contemporary abstract work was now being sought for display in the Entrance Hall.

Algiers – The Director outlined progress on finding a work for the Embassy.

Jakarta – The Director noted that the FCO had reported that the previous design had been cancelled.

6. Government Art Collection exhibition at Whitechapel Gallery

The Director noted that the Whitechapel Gallery had agreed to stage an exhibition on the GAC in 2011/12. It is to be in four stages and expected to tour a number of regional galleries. Initial discussions on content and format were about to take place.

7. Update on art commissions

The contents of the papers were noted.

8. Director's Report of GAC activities since 12 March 2009

The Committee noted the report.

9. AOB

Penelope Curtis asked about the portrait of Sir Angus Foster by C.A. Jenson in the Ambassador's Residence, Copenhagen (GAC16185), and which had recently been accidentally damaged there. The GAC reported that it would receive conservation treatment, probably in Denmark.

10. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 19 November 2009.