



department for
**culture, media
and sport**

Government Art Collection
2-4 Cockspur Street
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Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 November 2009 at the Government Art Collection's London premises

Present

Chairman: Julia Somerville

Members: David A Bailey, Iwona Blazwick, Penelope Curtis, Stephen Deuchar, Andrew Renton, Nicholas Penny

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mick Elliott, Sandy Nairne and Sarah Shalgosky.

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 9 July 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 9 July 2009.

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

Paul Graham (born 1956)

Texas (Sunset Hoops) 2005

8 panels (80 x 112cm; 50 x 70 cm; 60 x 84 cm; 50 x 70 cm; 40 x 56 cm; 28.5 x 40cm; 28.5 x 40 cm; 35.5 x 50cm)

Pigment prints, framed (non-reflective glass)

Edition of 5 plus 2 AP

\$40,000 discounted to \$35,000 plus 15% VAT: £29,242.03

Anthony Reynolds Gallery, London

Cornelia Parker (born 1956)

Rorschach (Endless Column III) 2006

14 silver plated objects crushed by 250 ton industrial press, metal wire

426 x 41 x 2.5 cm

£60,000 discounted to £52,000 plus 15% VAT: £59,800

Further discount negotiated post Committee meeting: £50,000 plus 15% VAT £57,500

Frith Street Gallery, London

5. New British Embassy, Tbilisi

Adrian George outlined the artists' proposals. The Committee approved these initial plans.

6. Refurbished Offices of the UK Permanent Representative and British Embassy, Brussels

A number of works were presented for possible acquisition to be funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the refurbished offices in Brussels. The Committee recommended the following works:

Hannah Collins (born 1956)

London True Stories 2006

Colour photograph, Edition 3/3

175 x 235 cm

£ 13,500 discounted to £11,475 plus 15% VAT: £13,196.25

Purdy Hicks Gallery, London

Robert Holyhead (born 1974)

A proposal for manifestations for a glass wall in the Reception and a window on the first floor overlooking the Reception was accepted.

James Hugonin (born 1950)

Three Fluctuations in Contrary Rhythm (Parts I-III) 2009

Three 30-colour screenprints on separate sheets of Somerset T.S. 410gsm each in an edition of 45

74.8 x 65.4cm each (image size)

97.7 x 83.7cm each (paper size)

£6,450 plus 15% VAT: £7,417.50

Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh

Tom Hunter (born 1965)

Sandy Cove 2006

C print edition of 5

76.2 x 96.5cm

£5,000 plus 15% VAT: £5,750

This recommendation was not taken forward by the FCO.

Peter McDonald (born 1973)

All the works are acrylic on paper

Le Gavroche 2 2009

29.5 x 21 cm

It's Not About Me 2009

29.3 x 20.5 cm

Venice Biennale Vernissage 2009

20.5 x 29.5 cm

Auction 2009

21 x 29.5 cm

Works on Paper 2009

20.5 x 29.8 cm

Museum Carpet Painting 2009

20.5 x 29.7 cm

Disco 2009

21 x 29.8 cm

Car Boot Sale 2009

21 x 30 cm

Le Gavroche 2009

21 x 29.5 cm

Family in the Museum 2009

21.2 x 29.8 cm

Rolled Carpets 2009

21 x 29.8 cm

£1,000 each discounted to £8,250 plus 15% VAT: £9487.50

Kate MacGarry, London

7. Government Art Collection exhibition at Whitechapel Gallery

The Director outlined the plans for the exhibition. There will be five displays running consecutively from June 2011 to September 2012. Each show will be selected by different individuals or groups to reflect the work of the GAC. These include Ministers, Ambassadors (recipients of GAC works), including well known public figures. An integral part of the exhibition will be an education programme and associated public events.

8. Update on art commissions

The Committee noted the updates on the commissions at the Ministry of Justice, London; Home Office, London; British Embassy, Algiers; British Embassy, Madrid; and the British Embassy, Warsaw

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

The Committee noted the report.

10. AOB

As this was Stephen Deuchar's last meeting before leaving Tate Britain, the Chairman thanked him for his cheerful commitment to the Committee and his informed and considered comments. The Committee fully endorsed these comments.

The Chairman congratulated Penelope Curtis on her appointment of Director of Tate Britain, as successor to Stephen Deuchar. She will remain on the Advisory Committee.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 18 March 2010.