



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 14 July 2011 at the Whitechapel Gallery

Present

Chair: Julia Somerville

Members: Iwona Blazwick, Penelope Curtis, Penny Johnson (GAC Director), Andrew Renton

GAC: Adrian George, Clive Marks, Julia Toffolo

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from David A Bailey, Sandy Nairne, Nicholas Penny, Clare Pillman and Sarah Shalgosky.

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 17 March 2011

The minutes were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

The Director reported that the Three Collections Review report was expected at the end of July (see point 7).

4. Acquisitions

The Director's report was noted.

Penelope Curtis enquired as to the status of the works of art that had been recently accessioned. Julia Toffolo explained that these comprised a number of works on paper and photographs on the GAC's premises acquired by other Government Departments (mostly the Foreign & Commonwealth Office). Previously uninventoried, they had now been given accession numbers.

5. Impact of Government Austerity Cuts

The Director noted that there was now a moratorium on the purchase of works of art, but that she was looking at alternative ways to continue to acquire appropriate works.

6. Government Art Collection exhibition at Whitechapel Gallery

The Director noted the positive response to the Exhibition from press and visitors alike. This was endorsed by Iwona Blazwick, who reported that the extensive press coverage had drawn an increased number of visitors to the Gallery, visitors who differed from the Gallery's usual demographic.

The Director outlined the plans for the fifth and final Exhibition Display.

7. Collections Review

The Director updated the Committee on the progress of the Review.

8. Declassification of the Advisory Committee

The Director noted that the Committee had been removed from the list of Non- Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) as a result of the Government's policy to reduce the number of such organisations, but that this would not affect its role.

9. Director's Report of GAC activities since 17 March 2011

The Committee noted the report.

10. AOB

The Director described a proposal made direct to 10 Downing Street to place a contemporary sculpture in the No.10 garden.

11. Date of next meeting

17 November 2011.