



department for  
**culture, media  
and sport**

**Government Art Collection**  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London, SW1Y 5DH  
[www.gac.culture.gov.uk](http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk)

# Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

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## Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 November 2011 at the Government Art Collection's London premises

### Present

Chair: Julia Somerville

Members: Iwona Blazwick, Penelope Curtis, Penny Johnson (GAC Director), Sandy Nairne, Nicholas Penny, Claire Pillman, Andrew Renton, Sarah Shalgosky

GAC: Adrian George, Clive Marks, Julia Toffolo

### 1. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

### 2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 14 July 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 outlined the potential impact of the Government's cost savings programme.

### 4. Acquisitions

The Director noted the following donations

- LOCOG had donated a set of **London 2012** prints by various artists for display in 10 Downing Street during 2012.
- Tracey Emin's neon sculpture **More Passion**, which the artist had donated to the Collection for initial display at 10 Downing Street, where it had been installed in August.

### 5. Three Collections Review

#### (Arts Council Collection, British Council Collection, Government Art Collection)

The Director updated the Committee on the Review's progress so far. The Committee expressed its hope that the Review would emphasise the essential differences between the three Collections.

### 6. Government Art Collection Exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery, London (divided into five consecutive Displays)

6.1 Further to the Director's report, Iwona Blazwick, Director of the Whitechapel Gallery, confirmed the exhibition's continuing positive impact on the Gallery. She informed the Committee that

- The first Display (At Work) had received 80,000 visitors and had attracted considerable publicity in various media.
- The Displays had reached a broad audience, attracting a new constituency of visitors to the Gallery.
- The Displays had led to a rediscovery of artists who had become less well-known over recent decades, and were consequently playing a role in reevaluating 20th century British art.
- Many schools were using the Displays as an educational tool.
- The Displays were contributing to the Whitechapel Gallery/London Metropolitan University 'Curating the Contemporary' course.
- The GAC book *Art, Power, Diplomacy* was selling well in the Whitechapel Gallery shop.
- Reprints were required for the booklets on the first Display (At Work) and the second Display (Richard Of York Gave Battle in Vain).

**7. Director's Report of GAC activities since 14 July 2011**

The report was noted.

**8. AOB**

The Director reported that over the period of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Lancaster House would be transformed into the 'British Business Embassy' where UK Trade and Investment would invite international business leaders to a series of events to promote British trade and industry. It would provide a good opportunity for the display of a number of contemporary works of art there during the event.

**9. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 15 March 2012.