



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 15 March 2012 at the Government Art Collection

### Present

Chair: Julia Somerville

Members: Penny Johnson (GAC Director), Sandy Nairne, Claire Pillman, Sarah Shalgosky

GAC: Adrian George, Clive Marks, Julia Toffolo

### 1. Apologies for absence

David A Bailey, Iwona Blazwick, Penelope Curtis, Nicholas Penny, Andrew Renton.

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

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

### 3. Acquisitions since 17 November 2011

3.1 One work had been acquired by donation: In Berlin (Bundestratsufer), oil on canvas by Harry Weinberger (GAC18423)

#### 3.2 Olivier Portraits

The Committee agreed that given their subject-matter, history and links between Britain and France, the Government Art Collection (GAC) should, if possible, acquire the paintings and, given the current absence of an acquisitions budget, recommended that the GAC Director seek alternative sources of funding.

### 4. Collections Review

The Director noted that the Review of the Three Collections (Arts Council Collection, British Council Collection and Government Art Collection) had been published and outlined its content. The Committee welcomed the reinforcement of the GAC's unique role, responsibilities and accountability, as articulated in the Review.

### 5. Government Art Collection Exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery

5.1 Update: The Director reported that the series of exhibitions had so far attracted favourable press comment and had brought new audiences to the Whitechapel Gallery, while through the public tours generated by the exhibitions, the GAC was attracting a broader and generally younger audience to its premises. She also noted that an exhibition on the history of the GAC (The Story of the Government Art Collection) was also now running, its display including some loans from the National Portrait Gallery and National Archives.

#### 5.2 Display 5: Government Art Collection: Commissions: Now and Then

The Director updated the Committee on the next and final exhibition in the series (21 June – 9 September 2012), which would be included in the London 2012 Festival.

### 6. Director's Report of GAC activities since 17 November 2011

The report was noted.

**7. AOB**

- The Director briefly reported on the situation regarding the GAC works of art that had been damaged in Tehran when the Embassy Compound there had been attacked on 29 November 2011.
- The Director updated the Committee on progress with contemporary art selections for the British Business Embassy in Lancaster House.

**8. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 19 July 2012.