



department for
**culture, media
and sport**

Government Art Collection
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Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12 July 2012 at the Government Art Collection

Present

Sarah Shalgosky (acting Chairman), David A. Bailey, Iwona Blazwick, Penny Johnson (GAC), Sandy Nairne, Nicholas Penny, Andrew Renton,
GAC: Adrian George, Clive Marks and Julia Toffolo

1. Apologies for Absence:

Julia Somerville, Penelope Curtis, Clare Pillman

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 15 March 2012 were agreed by the Committee and signed by the acting Chairman.

Matters Arising:

The Committee briefly discussed the conclusions of the Review of the Arts Council Collection, British Council Collection and Government Art Collection (published on 12 March 2012). The Committee was pleased that the report highlighted the unique nature of the Government Art Collection.

3. Acquisitions since 15 March 2012

The Director reported on the acquisition of '4' 33": Prepared Pianola for Roger Bannister, commissioned for the GAC's current and final exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery (Commissions: Now and Then). The Committee thanked the Whitechapel Gallery for the gift of nine contemporary prints from Whitechapel Editions, initially for display at the 'British Business Embassy' to be held at Lancaster House during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

4. Paintings by Herbert Arnould Olivier

The Director reported that GAC was currently seeking valuations for the works, as were the owners.

5. Government Art Collection 2012 – 2014

The Director reported on a number of changes that will affect the GAC over the next two years.

Premises: The lease for the GAC's current accommodation in Queen's Yard is due to expire in June 2014 and, concurrent with the DCMS's need to reduce administrative costs, cheaper premises are being sought, preferably on the Government Estate in Central London.

Acquisitions: The moratorium imposed by the DCMS is due to cease at the end of March 2013. The Committee voiced its strong support for the funding to be restored, reiterating that the purchases supported British artists, the exposure of whose work in prominent locations not only promoted Britain but also contributed to the economy in general, art being a significant element of the UK's GDP.

Chairman: As the current Chairman's term is due to end in September 2013, the search for a successor would begin this coming September.

Review of the GAC's Structure: As part of the DCMS's 'Change' Programme and the need to reduce its costs, a review of the GAC's structure will be undertaken during the Financial Year 2013-14.

Upgrade of the GAC's Database: The GAC's database (Argus) is due to be upgraded during the period 2013-2014, ideally undertaken before the accommodation move as it will have a major impact on GAC operations and staff time.

Whitehall Changes: The planned move of the DCMS to offices at 100 Parliament Street, and the continuing reduction in the size of the government estate, will result in there being less space for the display of works of art.

6. Government Art Collection exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery

The Director reported the positive response to the exhibitions from press and the public, and that the tours of the GAC's premises resulting from the exhibition had been a success, bringing in a wider audience.

The Committee noted the information on Display 5 and exhibition tour.

7. Director's Report on GAC Activities since 15 March 2012

The Committee noted the report.

8. Date of next Meeting

Thursday 22 November 2012