



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 21 March 2013 at the Government Art Collection

Present

Julia Somerville (Chairman)
Penelope Curtis, Penny Johnson (GAC), Clare Pillman, Sarah Shalgosky.
GAC: Julia Toffolo, Clive Marks

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from David Bailey, Sandy Nairne, Nicholas Penny and Andrew Renton.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 22 November 2012 were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

4. Acquisitions

4.1 Acquisitions since 22 November 2012

There have been no purchases but a number of works from the Florence consulate and HM Revenue and Customs were accessioned.

4.2 Olivier Portraits

The family is considering an offer.

4.3. Acquisitions by gift for consideration

The Committee recommended acquisition of a selection of the works offered by the son of Raymond Spurrier and agreed that the Director should make the selection.

5. Government Art Collection 2013 – 14

The Director noted GAC personnel changes that were due in the next year with the departure of 2 staff.

A decision on the future location of the GAC had not yet been made. The preferred option was Old Admiralty Building (OAB) in Whitehall. This location offers a number of benefits;

- central location in the heart of Whitehall;
- potential for a public gallery space; and,
- provides a permanent location.

The Director told the Committee that an acquisition budget of £114,000 had been earmarked. The Committee agreed with the Director that it was important to have modern British works on display in those areas where Britain was enhancing economic links e.g. India and Brazil coincidentally two areas where GAC displays needed refreshing.

It was the Chairman's penultimate meeting and the Director noted that arrangements for her successor were in place. There had been a good deal of interest in the position and interviews would be taking place on 17 April.

6. Government Art Collection exhibition

Feedback from Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery was extremely positive both from museum staff and visitors. 10,000 more visitors than expected had visited the exhibition with quite a number of repeat visits being recorded. Sarah Shalgosky noted how Mel Brimfield's work acted as an energiser for visitors who were drawn to it when it was operating and then went back to their tour reinvigorated afterwards.

Reaction to the exhibition in Belfast was very positive with large numbers of visitors reported in the opening days. The Chairman offered to see if she could arrange for Roger Bannister to be photographed with Mel Brimfield's work. If this wasn't possible in Belfast then perhaps it could be done when the work comes back to the GAC.

7. Director's Report of GAC activities since 22 November 2012

The Director outlined the progress made on the design for DCMS's new office space at 100 Parliament Street. The GAC had worked with designers and artist to ensure that a modern, dynamic display was installed.

The success of GAC's work with Islington schools on a literacy project was reported. Further work with other schools is taking place.

8. AOB

This was Sarah Shalgosky's final Advisory Committee meeting. The Chairman thanked her for her valuable contribution over the past 10 years. These thanks were warmly supported by Sarah's fellow Committee members.