



Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 July 2013 at the Government Art Collection

Present

Julia Somerville (Chairman)

David A. Bailey, Penelope Curtis, Penny Johnson (GAC), Andrew Renton

GAC: Adrian George, Roger Golding

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Iwona Blazwick, Sandy Nairne, Nicholas Penny and Claire Pillman.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21 March 2013 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 21 March 2013

The Committee noted the Director's report.

4.2 Olivier portraits

The Committee was shown images of the portraits. The Director explained that the family were looking for £30,000, and increase of £5000 on the GAC's offer. It was agreed it was desirable to acquire the portraits and suggested that if the £25,000 on offer was not accepted it might be possible to go higher but to explore options such as staging payments over more than one year.

4.3 Acquisitions for consideration

The Committee approved the purchase of the set of prints *Londonensi Subterraneis* by Phil Shaw with the proviso that the Director should if possible negotiate an additional discount from the dealer.

Adrian George showed images of two small sculptures **Ripped Cup** and **Cups** by Korean-born London-based artist Shan Hur which he had recently viewed at the artists' studio. The Committee approved the purchase of both works.

5. Government Art Collection 2013 – 14

The Director reported on negotiations with the Department for Education on the possibility of the GAC moving to the Old Admiralty Building. The space may give the GAC the opportunity for a small public gallery.

The Director noted that the acquisitions budget had been partially restored to the level of £114,000 for financial year 2013-14. The Director reported on the appointment of the new Chairman, David Verey, currently Chairman of the Art Fund and lead non-executive Director in DCMS.

Roger Golding mentioned the work being done on the proposed major upgrade of the Collection Management System (Argus), with intention of upgrading towards the end of the financial year if feasible.

6. Report of Government Art Collection exhibition 2011-2013

The Committee noted the Director's report and viewed the work commissioned for the exhibition - **4' 33" (Prepared Pianola for Roger Bannister)** by Mel Brimfield – on display in the gallery space. The Director mentioned a proposal to lend the work to an exhibition at the Olympic Museum in Switzerland in 2014. The Committee also viewed images of the exhibition display in Ulster

7. Director's Report of GAC activities since 21 March 2013

The Committee noted the Director's report and complimented the Director on the success of the display at the G8 Summit, Lough Erne.

The photographic Album of the Tehran Conference, salvaged from the Tehran Embassy was shown to the Committee, who proposed that it should remain in the care of the GAC. The suggestion to create a digital version for display on the website or as a touchscreen display would be explored.

The future of the schools literacy project was discussed, centring on options on how to maintain this project with reduced staff, and keeping the project interesting by varying the subject-matter.

8. AOB

The Director noted that the Minister for the Arts had asked the GAC Director and the incoming Chairman to investigate options for obtaining more funding for acquisitions to the Collection. There was discussion on some possible options that might be explored. The Director agreed to send a draft of the paper outlining the options available to members. The Committee expressed their wish to help with the transition between the outgoing and incoming chairmen, and their desire to be kept informed of developments in the funding process and how it affected the future of the GAC.

The Director thanked the outgoing Chairman for her commitment and support, who then spoke of her pride and humility at having been asked to take on this role and in being able to work with the GAC team.