



Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 July 2014 at the Government Art Collection

Present

David Verey (Chairman)

Iwona Blazwick, Penelope Curtis, Penny Johnson (GAC), Sandy Nairne, Nicholas Penny, Clare Pillman
GAC: Adrian George (GAC), Clive Marks

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from David Bailey and Andrew Renton.

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 13 March 2014

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Update report on fund-raising options for the GAC's acquisitions

The Director updated the Committee on progress. She also reported her discussions with the Contemporary Art Society. Its Fine Art Acquisition Scheme would mean that GAC could potentially receive benefits up to twice the current membership fee and other opportunities.

Sandy Nairne thought the appeals to artists' estates was possibly a fruitful course of action. He suggested that it would be helpful to draw up a preliminary list of any estates where discussions have taken place. It would also be helpful to have a list of artists whose work would be a welcome addition to the Collection.

4. Acquisitions

4.1 Acquisitions since 13 March 2014

The Committee noted the additions. The Chairman expressed his and the Committee's disappointment that the GAC's additional funding request of £81K in March had been turned down by the Secretary of State.

4.2 Acquisition for consideration

The following works were approved for acquisition:

Michael Craig-Martin (born 1941)

Objects of our time 2014

A series of 12 screenprints on 410 gsm Somerset Satin paper, 50 x 50 cm (each), edition of 50.
£6120 (£6,000 unframed less 15% discount plus VAT), Alan Cristea Gallery, London

Ceal Floyer (born 1968)

Rock-Paper-Scissors 2013

3 x C-Print on Alu-Dibond, 50 x 50 cm each, edition of 6 + 2 APs; this is edition number 1
£10,150 (£12,000 less 15% discount plus VAT), Lisson Gallery, London

Heather & Ivan Morison (Heather Peak born 1973, Ivan Morison born 1974)

Inside he imagines his wife and daughter 2014

94 x 60cm

£4200 (£3500 plus VAT)

Beside a sealed up building 2014

100 x 74cm

£4800 (£4000 plus VAT)

C-type prints, bespoke frames, hand blown red glass (edition of 3 + 1AP)

Total cost: £9000 (£7500 plus VAT), Work Projects, Frome

Gillian Wearing (born 1963)

Me as an artist in 1984 2014

Framed C-Type print, 130 x 160.5 cm; edition of 6 + 2AP

£33,600 (£35,000 less 20% discount plus VAT), Maureen Paley, London

4.3 Works offered for sale by the William Scott Foundation

The committee agreed that the works on offer were too expensive for the GAC's budget.

4.4 Work under consideration for new co-location of FCO and British Council Shanghai.

The Committee was happy in principle for the work to be acquired on the understanding that the GAC should explore funding with the FCO.

4.5 Acquisition by gift for consideration

The Committee agreed the offer of a bequest by Helen Martin Leake of the following work:

Unknown Artist

Portrait of Stephen Ralph Martin Leake (1782-1865)

watercolour on paper, 30 X 14 cm

- A drawing of Mrs Leake's late husband's ancestor, who entered government service in 1797, served as Private Secretary to two Prime Ministers and rose to be Principal Clerk of the Treasury

5. Update on portrait of Queen Victoria by Sir David Wilkie

The Director reported that in May a conservator examined the full length portrait of Queen Victoria at the High Commission compound in New Delhi. The Conservator recommends returning the portrait to the UK for full treatment, which should take about six months.

The Committee agreed that conservation should be undertaken in the UK whilst acknowledging the challenges of recalling the portrait.

6. Government Art Collection 2013 – 14

The report was noted by the Committee.

7. Director's report of GAC activities since 13 March 2014

The Committee noted the report.

8. AOB

Iwona Blazwick asked about the lease on the current GAC premises. The Director brought the Committee up to date. It is still the expectation that the GAC would share the Old Admiralty Building with the Department for Education from 2017 or 2018.

Iwona Blazwick told the Committee that London Open was looking to establish a purchase prize in 2015 and hoped that a work from the entries might be acquired for the GAC.

9. Date of next meeting

Thursday 13 November 2014