



# Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

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## Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13 November 2014 at the Government Art Collection

### Present

David Verey, Chairman

David A Bailey, Iwona Blazwick, Penelope Curtis, Penny Johnson (GAC), Sandy Nairne, Nicholas Penny, Clare Pillman

GAC: Adrian George, Clive Marks

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Andrew Renton.

### 2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 17 July 2014

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Matters arising

3.1 Work under consideration for new co-location of FCO and British Council, Shanghai  
Further options for art are being explored.

3.2 Portrait of Queen Victoria by Sir David Wilkie

Sandy Nairne and Penelope Curtis asked if the work could be conserved locally. The conservator who recently saw the work suggested not.

### 4. Update on fund-raising options for the GAC's acquisitions

The Director noted that the Contemporary Art Society and Outset provided the two most promising options. Iwona Blazwick thought there would be options through London Open, Jerwood Prize and John Moores. The Committee agreed this was a good option and would avoid the GAC having to go to the market. The Director asked if anyone knew of any artist's estate that could be approached for a donation.

The Director explained that the DCMS Project Team were looking at how alternative funding and structures might be introduced to the GAC. The Chairman suggested that the GAC may need to restructure to take advantage of alternative options.

### 5. Acquisitions

5.1 Acquisitions since 17 July 2014 were noted.

5.2 Acquisitions for consideration

The Committee recommended the following purchases.

Jyll Bradley (b. 1966)

#### **Their flight is knowledge, space is the alienation 2011**

From a suite of 10 'light drawings', No's 2, 3 and 5, acetate mounted on Bockingford watercolour paper on card, each 41.5 x 31.5 x 6cm (framed)

For three: £3663 ((3 x 1050) less 15% discount) + VAT + 3 x £150 frames), Mummery + Schnelle, London

Lemuel Francis Abbott (1760–1802)

**Portrait of George Macartney, 1st Early of Macartney KB (1737–1806) wearing a Tricorn Hat and the Order of the Bath** c.1800

oil on canvas, 92 x 79 x 60 cm (framed, unglazed)

£14,400 (£12,000 + VAT), Greg Page-Turner through Daniel Hunt Fine Art, London

The Committee asked the Director to see if a reduction in price could be obtained for this work.

5.3 Work proposed for deaccession

The Committee recommended the deaccession of GAC 15529, Julia Margaret Cameron - **Captain Speedy and Dejatch Alamayou**. An albumen print. The work would be transferred to the National Media Museum.

**6. Acquisition and Disposal Policy**

The Committee made a number of suggestions for amendments to the text. It also recommended that the policy focus more on what would be done rather than what would not be done. It was agreed a redraft would be circulated to the Committee for agreement.

**7. Government Art Collection 2014 – 17**

The Director provided a verbal update. She highlighted that discussions regarding GAC's move into Old Admiralty Building were still ongoing but it was hoped agreement would be reached by the end of December.

Sandy Nairne noted the good work done by the Director and Deputy Director on the Ghandi statue destined for Parliament Square. Clare Pillman further thanked Sandy for his contribution

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

The Committee noted the Report.

**9. AOB**

The Chairman thanked Sandy Nairne for his long, conscientious service as a Committee Member and his valued and considered advice and recommendations. The Committee seconded this and warmly wished him well.