



Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 March 2017 at the Government Art Collection

Present:

David Verey, Chair

Penny Johnson, Director, GAC, Alex Farquharson, Andrew Renton, Clare Lilley, Clare Pillman, David A. Bailey, Gabriele Finaldi, Susan Collins

In attendance: Adrian George, GAC, Andrew Parratt, GAC, Nicky Hodge, GAC

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Iwona Blazwick and Nicholas Cullinan.

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 17 November 2016

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising

The GAC Director reported the following:

- Clive Marks (GAC Senior Administrator) will be retiring on 31 May 2017.
- This would be the last Committee meeting for Andrew Renton and David A. Bailey.
- She had negotiated a 15% discount on a painting viewed at the last meeting.
- The British Embassy in Iran have agreed to Andrew Parratt's recommendations discussed in November's meeting, and the Ambassador will visit the GAC in June

4. Acquisitions

4.1 Acquisitions since 17 November 2016

The Committee noted the acquisitions.

4.2 Acquisitions for consideration

The Committee agreed the acquisition of the following works, though which works will be purchased this financial year is yet to be confirmed. (Caragh Turing's work was acquired in March 2017.)

GORDON CHEUNG (born 1975)

Rachel Ruysch I 2015

Rachel Ruysch II 2015

archival inkjet prints on Hahnemühle Photo Rag 308gsm paper

ELIZABETH MCALPINE (born 1973)

Ends (Sprayed Sound) 2013

C-Type print

CARAGH THURING (born 1972)

He who drinks the juice of the stone 2016

oil on cotton and Trevira CS

The following work was presented at the November Committee meeting from which several members were absent, and so will be re-presented at the July meeting. Potential obsolescence issues with the work were discussed.

THOMSON & CRAIGHEAD

(Jon Thomson, born 1969; and Alison Craighead, born 1971)

Horizon 2009

Digital collage from online sources

[Gabriele Finaldi left the meeting at 17:12]

4.3 Outset/Government Art Collection Fund

This following work will be acquired through the Outset/Government Art Collection Fund:

GILLIAN WEARING (born 1963)

Signs that say what you want them to say and not Signs that say what someone else wants you to say EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED IN LIFE THE POINT IS TO KNOW IT AND TO UNDERSTAND IT
1992-3, C-type print

4.4 Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2017

The Director explained a new initiative for an annual GAC prize purchase from Bloomberg New Contemporaries (BNC) – a first for both organisations. The Director said that the GAC would ring-fence £5,000 in 2017 for a BNC purchase but may not necessarily spend the amount. The Director invited any committee members to view the selected BNC 2017 works in April.

4.5 Proposed work for the exhibition An Eyeful of Wry

The Committee approved of a proposed Peter Liversidge commission for An Eyeful of Wry noting the artist's strong element of humour and its potential to reach out to different communities and a more youthful demographic. The Committee also discussed whether the fee represented good value with the majority carrying the vote. It was also agreed that the artist's book of proposals should be named Proposals for the Government Art Collection. The Director outlined a timescale of receiving artist's proposals by July for completion in time for the exhibition in Hull in autumn 2017.

5. Update on portrait of Queen Victoria, New Delhi

The Committee noted the actions taken since the previous meeting and approved the next steps, which are contingent on formal agreement of loan by the Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai.

6. Government Art Collection - verbal update

The Director reported the following:

- Recent press articles had overstated the size of the planned Public Display Space at the GAC's new accommodation at Old Admiralty Building. The Committee's discussion noted that although the space would be a single room, it would be the first time the GAC could offer public access without having to book.
- The Government's recently published Industrial Green strategy has recommended that the GAC

be involved with the Midlands Engine strategy and seek opportunities to work with collections in Birmingham and environs. The Committee discussed the Hull commission and exhibition as a potential model for future activity in the Midlands.

7. Director's report of GAC activities since 17 November 2016

The Committee noted the report.

8. AOB

- Alex Farquharson and David A. Bailey reported they had visited Winston Branch's studio, but did not see a suitable work for the GAC to acquire.
- The Chair and Director reported that Edmund de Waal had offered a choice of two pieces for long-term loan (five years) to the British Ambassador's Residence in Vienna, and that a visit would need to be made to establish which one could be installed in the building. The Committee agreed to proceed with the loan.
- Adrian George gave a summary of the AHRC-funded post-doctoral research post for which the GAC is involved in partnership with the University of York, who is making an application to the AHRC. This would be for three years looking at GAC influence on cultural diplomacy in several diplomatic posts. The application will be submitted at the end of March.
- The Director thanked Andrew Renton and David A. Bailey for their time on the Advisory Committee on the GAC. They both commented that it would be important for diversity to be retained with the appointment of new members.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 12 July 2017