



Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12 July 2017 at the Government Art Collection

Present:

Sir David Verey CBE - Chair
Nicholas Cullinan - Director, National Portrait Gallery
Gabriele Finaldi - Director, National Gallery
Penny Johnson - Director, GAC
Melanie Keen - Director, Iniva
Ben Luke - Critic and writer on the Visual Arts
Clare Pillman - Director, DCMS

GAC staff in attendance: Adrian George, James Morrison, Andrew Parratt

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Iwona Blazwick, Susan Collins, Alex Farquharson and Clare Lilley.

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 16 March 2017

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. Matter arising

- Two new independent Committee members were introduced: Melanie Keen, Director of Iniva, and Ben Luke, critic and writer on the visual arts. The new GAC Senior Collection Coordinator, James Morrison was also introduced.
- Gabriele Finaldi commended the work of the GAC in securing the loan of the Edmund de Waal work for the British Ambassador's residence in Vienna. The GAC Director said this had been an interesting project and the GAC would consider other potential relevant loans from artists, subject to the amount of administration required.
- The GAC Director mentioned that the Collection does not include any paintings by David Hockney and it would therefore be appreciated if Committee members could assist in any way to help secure an acquisition.

4. Acquisitions

4.1 Acquisitions since 16 March 2017

The Committee noted the acquisitions.

4.2 Acquisitions for consideration

After discussions by the Committee and in compliance with the criteria in the GAC's Acquisitions Policy, the Committee agreed the acquisition of the following works:

4.2.1 Purchased by the GAC

LUBAINA HIMID (born 1954)

Le Rodeur: The Pulley 2016

Acrylic on Canvas, 183 x 244cm

ANNE TALLENTIRE (born 1950)

From in and with, CS 2 2015

C-print on HFA photo rag paper, ed. 3 + 2 AP, 64.5 x 72.5cm

From in and with, GH 3 2015

C-print on HFA photo rag paper, ed. 3 + 2 AP, 64.5 x 72.5cm

BETHAN HUWS (born 1961)

Untitled (The priority of speech...) 2010 - 2016

Aluminium, glass, rubber and plastic letters, 100 x 75 x 4.5cm

SINTA TANTRA (born 1979)

Tuca Tuca - Spring Time in Rome 2017

Tempera on linen, 180 x 130cm

THOMSON & CRAIGHEAD

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

Horizon 2009

Digital collage from online sources, Edition 3 of 5

4.2.2 Contemporary Art Society (CAS)

The GAC became a Museum Member of the CAS Acquisitions Scheme in 2014. In the last year of a four-year membership cycle, a work of art is presented by CAS. The GAC worked with CAS on selecting the following work:

CHRISTINA MACKIE (born 1956)

Brushes Pots 4 2017

Stoneware, glass, brush and chrysoprase, 17 x 21 x 25.5cm

4.2.3 Outset/Government Art Collection Fund

LAURE PROUVOST (born 1978)

At Night This Water Turns Black 2014

Oil, collage and varnish on wooden board, glass of water, 26.5 x 21cm

4.3 Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2017

The Director informed the Committee that she and Andrew Renton had viewed works selected for the 2017 Bloomberg New Contemporaries (BNC) exhibition in April with a view to purchasing one or more for the Collection. The Committee were shown images of the works that had been identified. It was agreed the images would be forwarded to all members after the meeting and each member would give their feedback. The Director explained that the next stage will be for the GAC to let the BNC know which works they wish to continue to consider and to see the BNC 2017 exhibition at BALTIC and BALTIC 39 on 28 September. At that point the acquisition of the work(s) will be confirmed and the BNC and GAC plan to announce this, subject to DCMS press communications strategy.

5. Update on the exhibition An Eyeful of Wry

The Director updated the Committee on the progress of work towards An Eyeful of Wry. Images of Peter Liversidge's proposals were shown and it was agreed they would be forwarded to the Committee for further consideration.

6. Update on portrait of Queen Victoria, New Delhi

The Committee noted the actions taken since the previous meeting and approved the next steps.

7. Government Art Collection - verbal update

The Director reported on the current plans for the new accommodation. The Chair raised concern that there needs to be more resources dedicated to the GAC's move to Old Admiralty Building and the partnership with the other government department that will also be moving there.

8. Director's report of GAC activities since 16 March 2017

The Committee noted the report.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 15 November 2017