

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 March 2019 at the Government Art Collection

Present:

Sir David Verey CBE - Chair

Ex Officio:

Alex Farquharson - Director, Tate

Penny Johnson - Director, GAC

Emma Squire - Director, Arts, Heritage & Tourism, DCMS

Independent:

Melanie Keen - Director, Institute of International Visual Art

Ben Luke - Independent: Critic and Writer on the Visual Arts

Mary Ann Prior - Art Curator and Advisor

GAC staff in attendance:

Chantal Condron

Claire FitzGerald

Eliza Gluckman

Melinda Gibson

James Morrison

Andrew Parratt

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1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Susan Collins, Nicholas Cullinan, Gabriele Finaldi and Claire Lilley

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 14 November 2018

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising

- Andrew Parratt provided an update on the Queen Victoria portrait and his upcoming visit to New Delhi to plan the conservation
- The committee were updated on the return and re-installation of works in the Ambassador's Residence, Tehran, which will also include a selection of new work. To accompany the display, Laura Popoviciu Research & Information (Historical) Curator has produced a podcast on the cultural and diplomatic relations between Britain and Iran from the 17th century to the present day.
- The GAC Director provided details on the Fiona Banner artwork purchased with Outset/GAC Fund.

4. Acquisitions

4.1 Acquisitions since 14 November 2018

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 Acquisition Policy, the Committee agreed the acquisition of the following works:

4.3.1 Purchased by the GAC (from 2018/19 Acquisition Budget)

Elieen Cooper (born 1953)

Lemon Tree 2017

Oil on canvas, 90 cm x 62 cm

Caroline Walker (born 1982)

Shaping 2019

Oil on canvas, 40 cm x 36 cm

Lynette Yiadom-Boakye (born 1977)

Almond Clasp 2018

Oil on canvas, 85 cm x 70.5 cm

4.3.2 Purchased by the GAC (from 2019/20 Acquisition Budget)

Donald Rodney (1961 - 1998)

Untitled 1994

Paper, mixed media, magazines, 46 cm x 38 cm (framed)

Michael Wilkinson (born 1965)

White Wall 25 2018

Lego with aluminium support, 150 cm x 150 cm x 3 cm

4.2.3 Approach to GAC

David Dawson (born 1960)

Table for Paints and Brushes 2017

Oil on Linen, 92 cm x 71 cm

Gift from the Artist

Wendy Pasmore (1913-2015)

Oval Motif, Marron, Ochre and Lilac 1958

Oil on Board, 42.5 cm x 56.0 cm

4.2.4 OUTSET/GAC Fund

Zarina Bhimji (born 1963)

Shadows and disturbances 2007

Photographic Print, 127 cm x 160 cm, edition of 4 + 2APs - edition number 2 is offered to the GAC

4.2.5 GAC/OUTSET Ten Ten Fund

Nicky Hirst (born 1963)

New World 2017

Wood, Metal and Formica, 50 cm x 50 cm

After the meeting it was decided to purchase the work from the 2018/19 GAC acquisition budget

Joy Labinjo (born 1994)

Man drinking coffee 2019

Oil paint and spray paint on primed canvas, 140 cm x 160 cm

Barbara Walker (born 1964)

Vanishing Point 11 (Rubens) 2019

From the series Vanishing Point

Graphite on embossed Somerset Satin paper using a photopolymer gravure plate, 89 cm x 49 cm (approx)

After the meeting it was decided to purchase the work from the 2018/19 GAC acquisition budget

Flora Yukhnovich (born 1990)

Imagination, Life is Your Creation 2018

Oil on Linen, 210 cm x 180 cm

After the meeting it was decided to purchase the work from the 2018/19 GAC acquisition budget

5. TenTen Print Project

The artist agreed by the Committee at the November meeting has accepted the Commission. The GAC Director met with the artist and began discussions about the subject and production method. In response to a number of questions about the title, size and production, Eliza Gluckman will be able to confirm all these at the next meeting in July. The Committee was very supportive of the progress to date.

6. Waltham Forest Borough of Culture: GAC collaboration

The Committee was informed of the upcoming collaboration with Waltham Forest for the Waltham Forest Borough of Culture as initiated by the Mayor of London in 2019. The GAC will lend 68 works of art to 28 different locations between April and September in 2019 to be included in the Ways of Seeing exhibition. Two significant sculptural works by Rachael Whiteread and Cornelia Parker will be on display at Vestry House Museum until September 2019 and the opening two weeks will see Mel Brimfield's, Prepared Pianola for Roger Bannister installed in the Walthamstow Shopping Mall. The official opening of the Ways of Seeing exhibition will be attended by the Minister of Arts, Heritage and Tourism.

7. Update on the Move to Old Admiralty Building (OAB)

As OAB will not be ready for occupation until the autumn, the Collection is currently being moved into temporary storage. The team will be located temporarily at DCMS, moving there on 18 April. The Committee raised a query about access to the gallery and the need for planning to manage potential queues. The GAC presented ideas for the gallery programme: the life and history of the Collection, guided tours, weekday opening hours and informed the Committee that a further detailed plan will be circulated in due course.

8. Directors report of GAC activities since 14 November 2018

- The Director presented the new logo, which received a very positive response from the Committee.
- The GAC will organise a guided tour for the Advisory Committee of Old Admiralty Building in September or October, depending on the state of the building.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 17 July 2019