

## Minutes of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2020 by Video Conferencing

### **Present:**

Sir David Verey CBE - Chair

### **Ex Officio:**

Alex Farquharson - Director, Tate Britain

Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery

Penny Johnson - Director, GAC

### **Independent:**

Susan Collins - Artist & Professor of Fine Art at the Slade School of Fine Art

Melanie Keen - Director, Wellcome Collection

Clare Lilley - Director of Programme at Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Ben Luke - Critic and Writer on the Visual Arts

Mary Ann Prior - Art Curator and Adviser

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

### GAC staff in attendance:

Claire FitzGerald

Eliza Gluckman

Tony Harris

James Morrison

Andrew Parratt

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## 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Gabriele Finaldi.

## 2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 12 March 2020

The minutes were agreed and will be signed at the next meeting that can be held in person.

## 3. Acquisitions

### 3.1 *Government Art Collection Acquisitions 2020-21: X-UK Response to Covid-19*

The Committee was asked to consider and agree the proposal to support artists by acquiring works of art from those based across the UK given the impact of Covid-19 on the sector and economic challenges over FY 2020-21. After much discussion the Committee agreed to the proposal but asked to see the draft GAC X-UK Acquisition Brief for Networks and Artists and the template to submit artist nominations before releasing.

### 3.2 *Acquisitions since 12 March 2020*

The Committee noted the acquisitions.

### 3.3 *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:

No acquisitions were presented for consideration

#### 3.3.1 *Purchased by the GAC*

No acquisitions were presented for acquisition as the focus for expenditure in 2020/21 is the proposed Government Art Collection Acquisitions 2020-21: X-UK Response to Covid-19.

#### 3.3.2 *OUTSET/GAC Fund*

Twelve artists were selected to participate in the project and ten works have now been acquired. Nicole Wermers is yet to complete her commission and one artist is to select another work.

The Committee agreed to the acquisition of:

GOSHKA MACUGA (born 1967)

**Discrete Model 021** 2019

Collage, 90.6 x 66.1 x 3.9 cm (framed)

#### 3.3.3 *GAC/OUTSET TenTen Fund*

The Director gave an update on the current balance available for this fund.

No acquisitions were presented for consideration.

#### 3.3.4 *Commissions*

The Director gave an update on the current status of the commissions by Sara Barker and Nicole Wermers and the funding options being explored for the potential Yinka Shonibare sculpture.

#### 3.3.5 *New Contemporaries*

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Committee was informed that it has only been possible for the GAC to view on-line the works selected for the 2020 New Contemporaries. The plan is to see the works when the exhibition is staged at the South London Art Gallery later in the year. If this proves impossible, most of the works would be available to view at a warehouse in Wolverhampton. The works selected for acquisition will be shown to the Committee for approval at either the November 2020 or March 2021 meeting.

## 4. Collections Development Policy 2020-2023

The Committee agreed to the amendments proposed to the Collections Development Policy 2020-2023 and noted that it will be published on the GAC website.

## **5. Representation of the people project 2018-2028**

The Committee was brought up-to-date about the work that the GAC are undertaking as part of the Representation of the People Project conceived in 2018. The GAC is reviewing interpretation about works of art and reappraising how they have been considered historically.

## **6. TenTen Print Project**

The Committee was given an update on the arrangements for the 2020 Robson Orr TenTen Award Government ArtCollection/Outset Annual Commission. Mindful of the Covid-19 restrictions, discussions are taking place with the Robson Orrs, Outset and Erica Bolton about how to promote the commission this year. Members were reminded that the identity of the TenTen artist is embargoed until the press event in September.

## **7. Update on move to Old Admiralty Building (OAB)**

The Committee noted the update on the GAC's move to Old Admiralty Building, wished the GAC luck with the impending move and looked forward to having a tour of the new premises once this is possible.

## **8. Director's report of GAC activities since 12 March 2020**

The Committee noted the report.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 19 November 2020 (subsequently moved to 10 December 2020)