

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 10 December 2020 by Video Conferencing

Present:

Sir David Verey CBE - Chair

Ex Officio:

Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery

Gabriele Finaldi, Director, National Gallery

Penny Johnson - Director, GAC

Helen Whitehouse - Acting Director, Arts, Heritage and Tourism, DCMS

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

GAC staff in attendance:

Claire FitzGerald

Eliza Gluckman

James Morrison

Andrew Parratt

Laura Popoviciu

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1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Alex Farquharson and Mary Ann Prior.

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 14 July 2020

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

3. Acquisitions

3.1 Acquisitions since 14 July 2020

The Committee noted the acquisitions.

3.2 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:

SONIA BOYCE (born 1962)

The Audition in Colour 1997-2020

Edition of three, 75 Fuji Crystal Archive prints under Matte Acrylic Glass, Dimensions Variable

To be purchased from the TenTen Fund

DAVID REMFRY (born 1942)

Quiet Rooms 2019

Oil on canvas, 120 x 120 cm

Decision to be made whether to purchase this financial year or next

DAVID ROBILLIARD (1952-1988)

Keep Tomorrow Free 1988

Acrylic on canvas, 122 x 122cm

Decision to be made whether to purchase this financial year or next

YINKA SHONIBARE CBE (born 1962)

Diana of Versailles 2019-2020

Unique fibreglass sculpture, hand-painted with Dutch wax batik and bespoke hand-coloured globe

Sculpture: 146 x 86 x 76cm; Plinth: 70 x 85 x 85cm; Overall 216 x 86 x 85cm

Purchase dependent on funding being sourced this financial year

3.2.2 OUTSET/GAC Fund

Richard Wentworth

The artist is considering other work for the GAC.

Nicole Wermers

The contract is with the artist for the commission of *Rockdispenser (NYPANJCT)* for the Consul General's Residence in New York. The work will commence when travel is permitted (see 3.2.3 Commissions below).

3.2.3 COMMISSIONS UPDATE

SARA BARKER (born 1980)

HMA Residence, Bangkok.

The Committee approved the commissioning of Sara Barker. Scheduled to be installed in May 2020, the project has been delayed by Covid-19.

NICOLE WERMERS (born 1971)

Consul General's Residence, New York City

Rockdispenser (NYPANJCT) 2020

Stainless steel, rocks from New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey & Connecticut, 230 x 40 x 40 cm

Outset's contribution will be supplemented from the GAC acquisition budget to commission this work.

3.2.4 NEW CONTEMPORARIES

A virtual presentation of the works selected by Alexandre da Cunha, Anthea Hamilton, and Linder for the 2020 Bloomberg New Contemporaries was presented by Kirsty Ogg and Seamus McCormack of New Contemporaries on 19 June. The GAC has agreed to confirm our interest in works after seeing them and they will be shown to the Committee for approval at the March meeting.

3.3 Art xUK

The Committee was shown a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed artworks for acquisition. A selection was approved for acquisition, some they will be viewed in person before a decision is made and a list of artists they would like to consider other work from was created.

4. 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.

5. TenTen print project

The Committee was informed that on Tuesday 6 October 2020 a virtual reception was hosted to announce the artist and unveil the print live from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. The event included a welcome by the GAC Director; introduction from Caroline Dineage, the Minister for Digital and Culture; the 2020 artist, Yinka Shonibare; the sponsors, Sybil and Matthew Robson Orr; and final thanks from Candida Gertler, Director of Outset Contemporary Fund. It was broadcast live on YouTube with a virtual audience of approximately 100 people. A number of journalists were present who, after the launch, interviewed Yinka Shonibare. A short video was also launched on the GAC website showing the process of making the print at the printer's studio.

6. Update on move to Old Admiralty Building (OAB)

The Committee noted the updates on the GAC's move to Old Admiralty Building, Public Engagement Programme and External Commission

7. Director's report of GAC activities since 14 July 2020

The Committee noted the report

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 18 March 2021