

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 March 2021 by Video Conferencing

Present:

Sir David Verey CBE - Chair

Ex Officio:

Nicholas Cullinan - Director, National Portrait Gallery

Alex Farquharson - Director, Tate Britain

Gabriele Finaldi, Director, National Gallery

Eliza Gluckman - Acting 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

Mary Ann Prior - Art Curator and Adviser

GAC staff in attendance:

Madeline Betts

Claire FitzGerald

James Morrison

Andrew Parratt

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1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Penny Johnson.

2. Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 10 December 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 10 December 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:

3.2.1 Purchased by the GAC

WILLIE DOHERTY (born 1959)

Ashen, Restless 2018

Quadriptych, 4 framed pigment print mounted on Dibond, 1/3 from an edition of 3
68 x 101.1 cm each framed

Dreams of Longing, Dreams of Regret 2017

five framed pigment prints mounted on Dibond, 2/3 from an edition of 3
68 x 101.1 x 3.5 cm each framed

Loose Ends II 2016

diptych, pigment prints mounted on dibond, framed, edition of 3
111 x 164.5 x 5 cm each framed

Loose Ends VI 2016

diptych, pigment prints mounted on dibond, framed, edition of 3
111 x 164.5 x 5 cm each framed

Ghost Walk II 2016

pigment print mounted on aluminium framed, 3/3 from an edition of 3
106.6 x 159.8 cm image size

Ghost Walk III 2016

pigment print mounted on aluminium framed, 2/3 from an edition of 3
106.6 x 159.8 cm image size

ANNE TALLENTIRE (born 1949)

It is

More to

What is

Another 2020

Xerox EcoPrint Paper 75gsm, 200gsm card, masking tape

Series of 4: 23.5 x 21 cm (dimensions for each unframed sheet; series is framed)

There is after

Lines of escape

One might say

First example 2020

Xerox EcoPrint Paper 75gsm, 200gsm card, masking tape

Series of 4: 33.5 x 25 x 2.5 cm (each frame)

There are birds

Work in a day

Play with measurements

There are 2020

Xerox EcoPrint Paper 75gsm, 200gsm card, masking tape

Series of 4: 26.40 x 21 cm (each unframed sheet)

CATHY WILKES (born 1966)

Untitled 2020

Egg Tempera on Linen

61.5 x 71.5 x 1.6 cm

SUSAN MACWILLIAM (born 1969)

Book Spheres 2013–14

10 spheres, Inkjet paper + ink, plastic spheres MDF shelves (white vinyl silk paint)

3.2.2 Outset/GAC Fund

With the commission by Nicole Wermers agreed and in train there is one further work to be acquired to bring this project to a close.

Since 2015 the scheme has supported works by Anne Hardy, Fiona Banner, Gillian Wearing, Isaac Julien, Laure Prouvost, Shezad Dawood, Siobhán Hapaska, Zarina Bhimji, Goshka Macuga and Pablo Bronstein to enter the Collection.

3.2.3 Commissions

HMA Residence, Bangkok

The commissioned work **paper boats** by Sara Barker is now at the GAC's premises before being sent to Bangkok to be installed. This was scheduled for May 2020, but has been delayed by Covid-19.

Consul General's Residence, New York City

NICOLE WERMERS (born 1971)

The contract for the commission of **Rockdispenser (NYPANJCT)** 2020 was signed by the artist in March 2021. The production of the work will commence when travel is permitted. This project is part funded by the OUTSET/GAC Fund.

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 to the GAC last summer. Following this, a longlist of works were compiled by the GAC and were expected to be viewed in the exhibition at the South London Gallery on 11 January. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 this was not possible, so a virtual tour was provided in March and the works will be available to view in person in April. At the July meeting, the Committee will be presented with images of the selected works to be considered for acquisition.

3.2.5 Approach to GAC

The Committee were informed that Edmund de Waal has generously offered to gift his work **metamorphosen, I**, which has been on loan to the GAC since 2017 and placed in the British Embassy, Vienna.

EDMUND DE WAAL (born 1964)

metamorphosen, I 2017

12 porcelain vessels, 3 tin boxes, 5 Cor-Ten steel pieces and 1 porcelain shard in an aluminium, wood and plexiglass vitrine

170 x 100 x 13.5 cm

After discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to accept this generous gift.

3.2.6 Financial Year 2021-22 Update

The Acting Director provided the Committee with a verbal update on commitments for acquisitions in the next Financial Year.

3.2.7 Art X-UK

The Committee were brought up-to-date on the Art X-UK partnership project. Following discussion, it was agreed that Art X-UK, or a similar model, should be considered to become part of the GAC Collections Development Policy. The Acting Director confirmed that this would be looked into further and a paper would be presented to the Committee at the next meeting in July 2021.

4 Representation of the People Project 2018-28

The Committee were brought up-to-date on the work the GAC is undertaking as part of the Representation of the People Project conceived in 2018.

5 Robson Orr TENTEN Award

The Committee were brought up-to-date on the Robson Orr TenTen Award, a Government Art Collection/Outset Annual Commission. A test image of the print by the 2021 commissioned artist was shown to the Committee.

6 Update on Old Admiralty Building

The Committee noted the update on the GAC's move to the Old Admiralty Building. They were particularly pleased to hear that the move was officially completed just before Christmas 2020, and that following an audit, all works were confirmed as having arrived safely.

7 Director's Report of GAC activities since 10 December 2020

The Committee noted the GAC's activities since 10 December 2020.

8 AOB

It was agreed that if the next meeting in July 2021 is to take place at OAB, an extra hour would be added so a tour of the new GAC premises could be arranged for Committee members.

9 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 14 July 2021