

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14 July 2021 by Video Conferencing

Present:

Sir David Verey CBE - Chair

Ex Officio:

Alex Farquharson - Director, Tate Britain

Penny Johnson - Director, GAC

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

Independent:

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

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:

Eliza Gluckman

Elisa Kay

James Morrison

Andrew Parratt

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1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Nicholas Cullinan, Gabriele Finaldi and Melanie Keen.

2 Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 18 March 2021

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

3 Acquisitions

3.1 Acquisitions since 18 March 2021

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

JOHN AKOMFRAH (born 1957)

My Body Is The Monument 2021

Giclee Print, edition 3 of 3

101.6 x 152.4 cm

TAI SHANI (born 1976)

Runway 2021

Laser-cut wood and Jesmonite

Approx. 73 x 77cm

Series of 3 sculptures, each in a different colour

MOHAMMED SAMI (born 1984)

Skin III 2020

Acrylic on linen

285 x 225 cm

3.2.2 Outset/GAC Fund

The Committee noted there was no update since the last meeting in March 2021.

3.2.3 Commissions

HMA Residence, Bangkok

SARA BARKER (born 1980)

The commissioned work 'paper boats' by Sara Barker remains at the GAC 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 production of the work is still on hold until travel is permitted. This project is part funded by the OUTSET/GAC Fund.

British High Commission Compound, New Delhi 2021-23

Funded by FCDO

A presentation was shown to the Committee, after discussions the Committee agreed that the artist Jyll Bradley should be approved to undertake this Commission.

New Embassy and New Ambassador's Residence, Beijing 2024-28

Funded by FCDO

A presentation was shown to the Committee, after discussions the Committee requested for a brief to be written for this Commission and for further discussions to take place on the process of appointing the artist.

Ambassador's Residence, Washington, United States 2021-22

Funded through the GAC Acquisition budget and subject to fund-raising

A presentation was shown to the Committee, after discussion it was agreed which works should be considered, noting that acquisition would be dependent on the availability of funds from the GAC Acquisition budget and fund-raising.

3.2.4 New Contemporaries

The Committee were presented with images of the following works, after discussion and in compliance with the criteria in the GAC's Acquisitions Policy, acquisition of the following works were agreed:

ANNE CARNEY RAINES (born 1990)

Fall 2019

Oil on panel

25 x 32 cm

ZETHU MASEKO (born 1998)

Kuphiliswa Healing 2018

Sound 3 min. 10 sec.

Edition of 20

LILY KEMP (born 1997)

Lights on 2019

Acrylic on canvas

100 x 200 cm

3.3 Art X-UK Update

The Committee noted the following updates on Art X-UK and congratulated the GAC on the successful completion of this partnership project:

The completed Art X-UK partnership project:

- Supported 45 contemporary artists across the UK.
- Acquired 96 works of art.
- Committed £230,00 to acquire works of art.
- Provided collaboration and partnership with 12 contemporary visual arts networks from across the UK, who were asked to put forward the names of 4-6 artists who live in or are from their regions.
- Acquired works from at least 3 artists per region.

Of the 45 Artists the following characteristics were recorded in terms of representation:

- Women: 23
- Men: 20
- Identifying in non-binary terms: 2
- Minority Ethnic: 20
- LGBTQI+: 6
- Disability: 4

Following official clearance for release of press communications, the partnership project was publicly announced on the Bank Holiday Monday in May, and received significant regional press as well as mentions in national papers. DCMS Digi-comms and GAC amplified the launch and continue to spotlight artists and

regions as do the contemporary visual arts networks. Individual artists also promoted their acquisitions. The activity on social media greatly extended GAC's digital reach.

Evaluation for the project has taken place primarily through feedback in meetings and emails from the contemporary visual art networks.

4 Art X-UK: Future Ways of Working with Networks

The Committee were presented with a paper which considered future ways of working with the 12 contemporary visual art networks across the UK, after Art X-UK. The models proposed in the paper would ensure that the GAC has a broader geographic reach when meeting artists and considering works of art for acquisition. After discussion, Model 1 was approved by the Committee and a more detailed outline of this model to be presented at the next meeting in November.

5 Robson Orr TENTEN Award

The Committee noted the following updates on the Robson Orr TenTen Award, a Government Art Collection/ Outset Annual Commission:

- The Committee were shown the latest image of the print by the 2021 commissioned artist.
- The Director and Senior Curator/Deputy Director visited the printing studio earlier in July to discuss the print with the artist. They were joined by the Digital Media and Photography Manager, who shot footage of the printing process to make a short film.
- The proposed date for the sponsor's celebration of the print is 12 October 2021, however this is yet to be finalised, as is the date of the press launch.
- Outset are developing a virtual platform for galleries and museums (thevov.art) and have created a digital TenTen gallery space. The virtual space is a platform to showcase the works acquired by the TenTen Fund and can potentially be used by GAC staff to support other areas of work.

6 Director's Report of GAC Activities since 18 March 2021

The Committee noted the GAC's activities since 18 March 2021.

7 AOB

The Committee were brought up-to-date on the research being undertaken on the appointment of a youth member to the Advisory Committee. A paper will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting in November.

8 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 18 November 2021.