

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 November 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

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

James Morrison

Andrew Parratt

Sim Panaser

Paulina Shearing

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1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Melanie Keen.

2 Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 14 July 2021

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3 Acquisitions

3.1 Acquisitions since 14 July 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

GAC Acquisitions Budget

KUDZANAI-VIOLET HWAMI (born 1993)

Tongue on Fire 2021

Oil and acrylic on canvas

100 x 100 cm

JADÉ FADOJUTIMI (born 1993)

Our Potent Revolution 2021

oil, oil stick and acrylic on canvas

170cm x 190cm

TUNJI ADENIYI-JONES (b.1992)

Poetic Feet 2021

Oil on canvas

203.2 x 142.2 cm

HANNAH QUINLAN (born 1991) AND ROSIE HASTINGS (born 1991)

Disgrace

Portfolio of 12 etchings with aquatint on Hahnemuhle copperplate white 300gsm paper

38.7cm x 50cm

ANDREW PIERRE HART

Alter-native trace S3:E3s: Valerie and The Illusion Transmitters 2021

Oil on canvas

236cm x 136cm

CHRISTOPHER LE BRUN (born 1951)

There it is 2021

oil on canvas

155.5 cm x 110.3 cm

SUTUPA BISWAS (born 1962)

Lumen and All the Apples, Single-channel digital film 2021

Film stills, photograph: Carlotta Cardana

C-Type Print

86cm x 130cm

GAC/TenTen Acquisitions Fund

CHARMAINE WATKISS (born 1964)

The Passengers 2020

Pencil, graphite powder, coloured pencil and 22.9k gold on Canson paper
132 cm x 90 cm

RENE MATIĆ (born 1997)

Maggie in Pink and Dreamland, Margate 2019

Photograph

Unframed 25 x 16.9 cm

3.2.2 Outset/GAC Fund

The Committee noted that there was no update on this.

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 continued to be 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.

TANIA KOVATS (born 1966)

Seamark, Old Admiralty Building 2022

Part funded by GPA

To accompany the installation of **Well** in the Old Admiralty Building (OAB), the new home for the Government Art Collection, a proposal for a companion piece was presented to the Committee for consideration.

Seamark, is a large ceramic wall work by Tania Kovats that would greet visitors in the reception area at OAB and sit behind the water fountain **Well**. After consideration, the Committee approved this commission.

British High Commission Compound, New Delhi 2021-23

Funded by FCDO

The Committee noted the update on this Commission being undertaken by the artist Jyll Bradley.

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

Funded by FCDO

At the previous meeting in July, the Committee asked for a brief to be written for this Commission and a paper on the Commissioning process to be presented to them before approving the artist to be appointed for this Commission. The brief and paper were presented to the Committee at the meeting, after discussions it was agreed there were still some points to be considered on the Commissioning process to be discussed at the next meeting in March, before approving the artist to be appointed for this Commission.

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

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

An updated version of the presentation shown at the last meeting in July was presented 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:

ANGELINA MAY DAVIS (born 1966)

Blue Elms 2019

Oil on canvas

154 x 274 cm

LIORAH TCHIPROUT (born 1992)

There is nothing I can do with this desire 2021

Oil on Board

30 x 24 cm

All is well in the court of Yasha 2021

Etching on paper

35 x 24 cm

KRYSTLE PATEL (born 1983)

Paradise 2020 2020

Digital print

59.4 x 42 cm

3.3 Art X-UK: Future Ways of Working with CVAN and Other National Networks

Following its approval by the Committee at the previous meeting in July, a more detailed outline of Model 1 for future ways of working with the UK contemporary visual art networks was presented to the Committee in a paper. This provided a framework for GAC to work with broader geographic reach when meeting artists and considering works of art for acquisition, advancing our objective to build a collection that is truly representative of artists and audiences around the whole UK. After consideration, the Committee approved the outline proposed and noted the action points.

4 Robson Orr TENTEN Award

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

- The 2021 Commission by Lubaina Himid - **Old Boat, New Weather** - depicts a collaged vessel, part-ship and part-shack, in a European harbour. The image brings together motifs familiar in Himid's practice, referencing the notion of home, architecture and women, slavery and imperial trade.
- The press launch of the TenTen Robson Orr Award, organised by Bolton and Quinn took place in the State Drawing Room of No11 Downing Street. For the first time the TenTen sponsors, the Robson Orrs, attended and the award was announced by Julia Lopez, Minister for Media, Data & Digital Infrastructure. Coverage appeared in The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph, The Times, The Art Newspaper and iNews, in addition to regional newspapers in Belfast and Preston.
- Outset developed a virtual gallery on their platform for galleries and museums, The VoV (thevov.art). The digital platform showcases each of the past TenTen commissions and a selection of works acquired through the TenTen Fund, including works by Sonia Boyce, Khadija Saye and Matthew Krishanu. The virtual 'gallery' is inspired by the architecture of GAC's The Viewing Room space at the Old Admiralty Building. A new exhibition of works will be displayed in early 2022.
- Following on from the launch of the TenTen Award, Lubaina Himid was interviewed at OAB by the GAC Curator (pre-1900). The discussion was centred around Lubaina's works in the GAC in connection with historical works chosen by Lubaina. The content, in the form of a series of short videos, will be launched later in November to coincide with her major exhibition at Tate Modern.
- Proposals for the 5th TenTen commissioned artist were tabled at the meeting, after discussions the Committee approved the artist to be appointed.

5 Rationalisation of Collection

A paper was presented to the Committee proposing an approach to Rationalise the Collection. The Committee noted the proposal but felt that this should be a topic for discussion in the future.

6 Advisory Committee Youth Member

A paper was presented to the Committee to update them on the research the GAC had undertaken on appointing a youth member to the Committee. The action points to be agreed at the next meeting in March were noted.

7 Commissioning Work

A paper laying out the processes for selecting artists for commissioning was presented to the Committee. The Committee asked for this to be looked at again in more detail at the next meeting in March.

8 Director's Report of GAC Activities since 14 July 2021

The Committee noted the GAC's activities since 14 July 2021.

9 AOB

The Committee noted this was Penny Johnson's last Advisory Committee meeting as she was stepping down from her role as GAC Director at the end of December. The Committee thanked Penny warmly for leading the GAC over the past 25 years to where it is today - a Collection of incredible historic breadth that proudly continues to support British artists, collecting and displaying their work in UK spaces globally.

10 Date of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 17 March 2022.