

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 July 2022 GAC offices

Present:

Sir David Verey CBE - Chair

Ex Officio:

Nicholas Cullinan - Director, National Portrait Gallery

Alex Farquharson - Director, Tate Britain

Eliza Gluckman - Director, GAC

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

Independent:

Mary Ann Prior - Art Curator and Advisor

GAC staff in attendance:

Emma Bani-Walker

Nicola Freeman

James Morrison

Andrew Parratt

Madeline Betts

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Gabriele Finaldi, Susan Collins, Melanie Keen, Clare Lilley, and Ben Luke.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 March 2022

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. ACQUISITIONS

3.1 Acquisitions since 17 March 2022

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

HARMINDER JUDGE (born 1982)

Untitled (opening cage and ribs displayed), 2022

Plaster, polymer, pigment, scrim, oil, wax

235 x 224 cm

A selection of images of works by the artist Rita Keegan was presented to the Committee and they agreed to consider them at the next meeting in November 2022.

3.2.2 GAC/TenTen Acquisitions Fund

No works presented.

3.2.3 OUTSET/GAC FUND

The Committee was updated on the Nicole Wermers commission and Richard Wentworth work to agree on, which will then bring this project to a close. Through the scheme the GAC has acquired works by Anne Hardy, Fiona Banner, Gillian Wearing, Isaac Julien, Laure Prouvost, Shezad Dawood, Siobhán Hapaska, Zarina Bhimji, Goshka Macuga and Pablo Bronstein. Outset and the GAC are keen to mark the occasion at a future date.

3.2.4 New Contemporaries

The Committee was informed that the GAC Director and Curators visited the New Contemporaries selection preview and shortlisted the three works below. Committee members were encouraged to visit the show to view the works as it is unlikely they will be able to be brought into the GAC to view.

WINNIE HALL (born 1998)

Life Gets Harder, Trackies Grow Thicker, 2021

Oil paint on canvas

75 x 75 cm

LORENA LEVI (born 1997)

Mirror Mother, 2021

Oil on wood

60 x 70 cm

ZEARO (born 1996)

A Letter to Kev, 2021

Oil on linen with wooden frame

42.4 x 35.8 cm

3.2.5 Art X-UK: National Networks

The Committee was informed of the current timelines for acquisitions from East/West Midlands and Wales for 2022/23, and of the GAC focus areas for 2023-2027. Agreements for this year have been made with CVAN, CVAN England, and Visual Arts Group Wales. Most acquisitions will be presented at the November 2022 meeting with some West Midlands acquisitions falling into the March 2023 meeting. Press announcement to follow confirmation, hopefully by the end of the Summer.

Number 10 Museum in Residence

The Committee was notified that the Glyn Vivian Gallery in Swansea has been selected as the Number 10 Museum in Residence for 2022/23. The Committee was asked to recommend any suitable Scottish Museums or Galleries with Modern Collections to consider for 2023/24.

3.3 Commissions

The Committee was provided with the following updates on Commissions.

Old Admiralty Building, London

TANIA KOVATS (born 1966)

SEAMARK, 2022

Funded in full by the Government Property Agency.

This work was installed in the reception of the Old Admiralty Building in May 2022.

HMA Residence, Bangkok

SARA BARKER (born 1980)

Paper Boats, 2020

326cm x 142cm x 25cm

Funded in full by FCDO

This work was installed at the new Bangkok Residence in May 2022.

Consul General's Residence, New York City

NICOLE WERMERS (born 1971)

Rockdispenser (NYPANJCT), 2022

Stainless steel, rocks from New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey & Connecticut

230 x 40 x 40 cm

Funded from GAC Acquisitions budget and GAC/OUTSET Fund

There are discussions about this commission being added to the Washington display, as it would be a strong addition and be seen by more people in the long term.

Ambassador's Residence, Washington, 2022

The Committee were able to view the Lindsey Mendick ceramics that were commissioned for the display in Washington. The Committee was presented with commission proposals from the artist Anya Gallachio, and agreed on the preferred work in the proposal, also noting that the variety in the proposal should be minimised before sharing with the Ambassador. Discussions took place with potential US funders for the commission when the GAC Director visited Washington in February.

British High Commission Compound, New Delhi 2021-23

JYLL BRADLEY (born 1966)

The Gathering (proposal), 2021

Funded by the FCDO

Currently paused

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

Funded by FCDO

Currently paused

4. ROBSON ORR TENTEN AWARD

The Committee was provided with the following updates on the Robson Orr TenTen Award, a Government Art Collection/Outset Annual Commission.

4.1 TenTen 2022

The commissioned artist for 2022 has selected Pauper Press North London as their printer - when the printing takes place, it will be filmed by the GAC Digital Media and Photography Manager. The press launch has been scheduled for the morning of Friday 7 October 2022 and Committee members are welcome to attend. A location will be finalised nearer the time. An online and social media campaign will be undertaken in order to push sales of unsold TenTen prints currently held by Outset Contemporary Art Fund.

5. ADVISORY COMMITTEE YOUTH MEMBER

The Committee was updated on the progress of recruiting for two new Youth Members. The four shortlisted candidates have been invited for a tour of the Collection, followed by an informal interview with the GAC Director and Ben Luke on 21 July 2022. We hope to have the successful candidates officially appointed so they will be able attend their first meeting in November 2022. The Committee was asked to comment on the proposal for the new Youth Members to shadow current Committee Members. After discussions the following was suggested:

- Meetings and/or tours with the Youth Members and current Committee Members would be preferred.
- Further discussions to be held once the appointments have been made.

6. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee was presented with a proposed amendment to the constitution, and after discussions it was approved.

7. COMMISSIONING ARTWORK

The Committee was presented with the draft Terms of Reference for the Commissioning Sub-Committee. After discussions, the Committee agreed on the following:

- Specialist members to the Sub-Committee might be required to provide expertise. This may vary from commission to commission so "as required" should be used in the terms of reference.
- The Sub-Committee should be agile and able to respond quickly to commissions and briefs brought to the GAC by the FCDO.
- The members of the Sub-Committee should not be fixed and be on a rotating/as available/expertise basis.
- A member from the FCDO should be on the Sub-Committee.
- Initial response and work on commissions should come from the Sub-Committee, but final sign off should be from the Advisory Committee.
- GAC to finalise whether the Sub-Committee should be added to the Advisory Committee constitution or if a separate constitution is required.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF GAC ACTIVITIES SINCE 17 MARCH 2022

The Committee noted the GAC's activities since 17 March 2022.

9. AOB

Discussions took place on the following:

- The Viewing Room - security challenges around public access at Old Admiralty Building, support from DIT, AHT and DCMS Permanent Secretary on the opening scheduled to be before the November 2022 meeting, with a display on TenTen.
- Public engagement focusing on connecting with the Regions.
- Interpretation of the Collection (paper to be presented at the next meeting in November 2022 - sharing of information between Nationals to be considered so work is not duplicated).
- NFT's

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday 17 November 2022