

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2022 at the GAC offices

Present:

Sir David Verey CBE - Chair

Ex Officio:

Alex Farquharson - Director, Tate Britain

Eliza Gluckman - Director, GAC

Nicola Hewer - 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

Lisa Kennedy (Youth Member) - Curator and Writer

Ben Luke - Critic and Writer on the Visual Arts

Afua Nkansah-Asamoah (Youth Member) - Cultural Producer

Mary Ann Prior - Art Curator and Advisor

GAC staff in attendance:

Madeline Betts

Nicola Freeman

James Morrison

Andrew Parratt

Laura Popoviciu

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Nicholas Cullinan, Gabriele Finaldi and Clare Lilley.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 July 2022

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. ACQUISITIONS

3.1 Acquisitions since 13 July 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

ALVARO BARRINGTON (born 1983)

Changed the game, Frieze 2022, 2022

Oil and acrylic on canvas in oak and concrete frame, 3 tyres
230 x 240 x 24 cm

BEDWYR WILLIAMS (born 1974)

Untitled, 2021

Oil on canvas
60 x 60 x 2 cm

BEDWYR WILLIAMS (born 1974)

Untitled, 2021

Oil on canvas
60 x 60 x 2 cm

LUBNA CHOWDHARY (born 1964)

Sign 12, 2022

Glazed ceramic on wood
140 x 140 x 4 cm

RITA KEEGAN (born 1949)

Red Me, 1986

67.3 x 57.7 x 4 cm
Oil on canvas

RITA KEEGAN (born 1949)

Untitled (monoprints), 1986-8

30.4 x 21.5 x 2 cm
9 photocopy monoprints on sugar paper

Art X-UK: GAC Acquisitions Budget - East Midlands

JASON WILSHER-MILLS (born 1969)

The Other Western Gentleman, 2015

Digital painting on paper (framed)
130 x 100 x 8 cm

MIRANDA SMART (born 1995)

Many Moods, 2020

Inkjet print, created originally with scanned hand-drawn inks and digitally coloured
23 x 23 cm

MIRANDA SMART (born 1995)

Esoteric Eye Candy, 2019

Inkjet print, created originally with scanned hand-drawn inks and digitally coloured
23 x 23 cm

MIRANDA SMART (born 1995)

Smashing Silence, 2019

Inkjet print, created originally with scanned hand-drawn inks and digitally coloured
23 x 23 cm

Art X-UK: GAC Acquisitions Budget - Wales

IAN NIGEL HURLSTONE (born 1970)

The Sleepers (1 of 4), 2020

Digitally printed cotton organdie, machine embroidery with burmilana and cotton thread mounted on denim
1200 x 940 x 28 mm

IAN NIGEL HURLSTONE (born 1970)

What Pleasure? (1 of 18), 2016

Digitally printed cotton organdie, machine embroidery with burmilana and cotton thread mounted on cotton twill
128 x 94 x 2.8 cm

IWAN LEWIS (born 1980)

Apple Cider Vinegar with Mother, 2021

Oil and wax on canvas
57 x 53 cm

IWAN LEWIS (born 1980)

Orenau, 2018

Oil on canvas
102 x 102 cm

IWAN LEWIS (born 1980)

Mango Syrup and Proboscis, 2016

Oil and wax on canvas
195 x 163 cm

IWAN LEWIS (born 1980)

Arowana, 2022 (attached to the right edge of Mango Syrup and Proboscis, 2016)

Oil and wax on hand towel on board
35 x 50 cm

IWAN LEWIS (born 1980)

Undeb, 2022 (attached to the left side of Mango Syrup and Proboscis, 2016)

Oil on tea towel on board
25.5 x 22.5 cm

3.2.2 GAC/TenTen Acquisitions Fund

TANOASASRAKU (born 1995)

Grey Wet-Cell, 2022

Patinated cast bronze, resin glue, foraged Fremington grey graphite

13 x 7.5 x 1.5 cm

TANOASASRAKU (born 1995)

Red Dry-Cell, 2022

Patinated cast bronze, resin glue, foraged Quiraing red ochre

13 x 7.5 x 1.5 cm

TANOASASRAKU (born 1995)

Red Wet-Cell, 2022

Patinated cast bronze, resin glue, foraged Torbay red sandstone

13 x 7.5 x 1.5 cm

TANOASASRAKU (born 1995)

Yellow Wet-Cell, 2022

Patinated cast bronze, resin glue, foraged Sligachan yellow ochre

13 x 7.5 x 1.5 cm

MARGARET MELLIS (1914-2009)

Cloud Cuckoo Land, 1991

Driftwood construction

99 x 127 x 5 cm (LP34340)

3.2.3 Art X-UK acquisitions programme 2022–27

The Committee was provided with the following updates:

- The GAC has hosted the selection panels with Visual Arts Group Wales, CVAN East Midlands and CVAN West Midlands. This also provided the opportunity to discuss the programme, refining the artist selection process, and to explore engagement opportunities to increase awareness and understanding of the GAC.
- This led to greater clarity in the brief for the West Midlands selection panel and prompted the development of a co-produced digital resource to support early career artists in pricing their work (CVAN) and working with collections (GAC) to be hosted on CVAN's website, and establishing how the GAC curatorial team could feed in its own ideas for artists to acquire work from in these regions.
- There remains an ambition that the programme will help leverage opportunities for collecting within the regions and joint exhibition/engagement work, for example, with the GAC No10 Museum in Residence partner.
- As the programme progresses, ways are being explored to maximise developing relationships with artists and networks in the different regions, to support and inspire young creatives. The GAC is working closely with CVAN, VAGW and SCAN on website and social media content to give a voice to the artists and audiences we engage.
- Looking forward - in December 2022 we are visiting Scotland and the North East to reconnect with CVAN North East and the Scottish Contemporary Art Network, and to secure a museum partner in the North East for 2023/24. In 2023, we will be visiting Northern Ireland to develop a network to work with for 2024/25.

Focus areas beyond 2023/24:

2024/25

Northern Ireland, North West

2025/26

Wales, Yorkshire, East

2025 UK City of Culture: Bradford

2026/27

Scotland, South East, South West

3.3 COMMISSIONS

The Committee was provided with the following updates on commissions.

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.

The artist has now completed her trip to the US and we are in discussion with the Residence about installation, which should hopefully be by spring and then followed by an event at the Residence in celebration.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Quad

The GAC has progressed a new opportunity to integrate outdoor sculptural works with a newly landscaped quad at the FCDO. Further to discussions with FCDO, the architects and the Commissioning Sub-Committee, we now have a short list of artists (shared with the Committee) with a view to acquire existing sculptural works or commission new work. We will convene a meeting of the Commissioning Sub-Committee in December 2022 to follow up on artists budgets and schedules.

Ambassador's Residence, Washington, 2023

The refurbishment of the Lutyens building (1928-32), has enabled a refresh and new display of more significant artworks, commensurate with such an important building and location. We have worked with Richard Long's gallery to agree to the production of GAC's Dartmoor Time print as a large wall vinyl. Works by Lindsay Mendick and Rana Begum have been acquired (not commissioned) for display in Washington. The GAC Director visited the Residence in early June and met with the artist Anya Gallaccio (whose proposal for a new work in the garden was agreed by the Committee at the July 2022 meeting). This commission has now been paused whilst funding for it is explored further.

Paused Commissions:

British High Commission Compound, New Delhi 2021–23

JYLL BRADLEY (born 1966)

The Gathering (proposal), 2021

Funded by the FCDO

This project continues to be delayed and dates are uncertain.

New Embassy and New Ambassador's Residence, Beijing 2024–28, funded by FCDO

The new Embassy is designed by Atkins. There are two potential sites for commissions within the building. The Ambassador's Residence has been designed by Eric Parry and will be built around a courtyard design of traditional Chinese architecture. We are looking to commission a work in the Courtyard. This project continues to be delayed and dates are uncertain.

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 Award 2022

A very successful press launch took place on Friday 7 October 2022 at the Old Admiralty Building, giving press the opportunity to see both the new print and also tour the GAC's new premises. This included a display of all five TenTen prints in The Viewing Room, alongside a small selection of the 35+ works bought with funds from the sale of the prints to date.

TenTen prints and sales update (2018–22)

The Committee was provided with details of the following:

- Total raised from TenTen Print sales to date
- Total available to spend
- Remaining prints to be sold
- Location check on Lubaina Himid 2021 print

TenTen in Schools 2022–27

Outset has facilitated conversations with the philanthropists who support the TenTen Award (Sybil and Matthew Robson Orr) to utilise the funding and introduce a programme that will benefit young people and align with the GAC's public engagement ambitions. To conceive and deliver this programme, the GAC is working in partnership with Artists in Residence (AiR), an organisation founded by art teacher Andria Zafirakou with the \$1million Global Teacher Prize, which she won in 2018. AiR brings high-quality artist residencies to schools across England.

A pilot project with AiR will see one of the TenTen prints displayed for a day at Alperton Community School in Brent, the school where Andria has helped to transform the lives of young people through art and creativity. In the run-up to the event, the GAC curatorial team will work with teachers and pupils at the school to encourage engagement with the prints in learning across the curriculum. One of the five prints will be selected by the pupils themselves to come to their school in January 2023. The day event in the school will be supported by the GAC curatorial and collection care teams, as well as invited artists, introducing pupils through talks and workshops to the themes and production of the works, and offering personal insights into the full range of careers in the creative industries. Following evaluation of this pilot, we will devise a five-year plan for working with AiR. Ideas currently being explored include working in-depth over several years with schools in City of Culture regions and/or mapping areas of focus for Art X-UK, depending on the level of funding secured.

4.2 TenTen 2023 Artist

A longlist of artists to consider for the 2023 commission was presented to the Committee for consideration. After discussions, it was agreed that the longlist should be reduced to a shortlist of five artists before a final decision is made.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF GAC ACTIVITIES SINCE 13 JULY 2022

The Committee noted the GAC's activities since 13 July 2022.

6. AOB

Nicola Hewer (Director, Arts, Heritage and Tourism, DCMS) announced that the Chair (Sir David Verey CBE) is serving his last term which comes to an end in September 2023. The process for the appointment of a new Chair has started and Committee members will be kept informed as this progresses.

7. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 15 March 2023