

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2023 at the GAC Offices

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 - Director, GAC

Laura Jackson - 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:

Emma Bani-Walker

Nicola Freeman

Andrew Parratt

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Clare Lilley.

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

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. ROBSON ORR TENTEN AWARD

A paper was presented to the Committee to bring them up to date on the Robson Orr TenTen Award 2023, TenTen in Schools and TenTen Print sales (2018-2023).

The Committee were updated on the pilot of the TenTen in schools project, which took place in February 2023, and were provided with feedback from the stakeholders and students taking part in the workshops.

4. KING'S CORONATION COMMISSION

The Committee was provided with the following updates on the Coronation commission:

The Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6 May 2023 is supported by a UK-wide programme shaped by DCMS, running through to Monday 8 May, centred around four priorities: youth, community, diversity and sustainability.

GAC commission proposal (subject to Ministerial approval):

Objectives

- Commission new works for the Collection which record this historic moment and augment pre-existing 1950s Coronation commissions
- Create works with a legacy (both digital and physical) of use in schools and within wider public programme
- Build on success of Jubilee digital content across all social media platforms (which saw a 280% increase in engagement)
- Widen public engagement with (and knowledge of) the GAC
- Fulfil the GAC's mission of supporting British artists at all stages of their careers, including those working closely with communities across the UK to support the Levelling Up agenda

We intend to work with a selection of 8 artists over the course of 10–12 months to produce new works for the Collection. We anticipate half of the artists producing their works directly after the May Coronation and the other half producing theirs within the six months afterward.

A longlist of 10 potential artists (from which eight will be selected) was approved in a meeting of the Commissioning Sub-Committee on 27 January 2023. Further to the January meeting of the Commissioning Sub-Committee, the Committee approved another artist to be added to the longlist.

A budget has been provided (on the basis of 8 shortlisted artists) to cover:

- Artists' commission fees and production costs
- An experienced arts producer to manage the project
- Documenting of the artists' work as part of a public engagement programme
- Display and transport of the works
- The acquisition of final works into the Collection

5. ACQUISITIONS

5.1 Acquisitions since 13 July 2022

The Committee noted the acquisitions.

5.2. 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:

5.2.1 Purchased by the GAC

LUBAINA HIMID (born 1954)

A Fashionable Marriage: Castrato/Krytyk (1), 2022

Screenprint in Charbonnel etching ink with hand-painting in acrylic on Somerset Tub Sized 410gsm paper
75.9 x 102.3 cm

A Rake's Progress: Bottoms Up (2), 2022

Screenprint in Charbonnel etching ink with hand-painting in acrylic on Somerset Tub Sized 410gsm paper
102.3 x 76.3 cm

MARK NEVILLE (born 1966)

Chernihiv sports stadium destroyed by Russian shelling (from *Postcode Ukraine* series), 2022

C-type print, Edition of 5 (plus 2 APs)

108 x 135 cm (image size) 128 x 155 cm (paper size)

MARLENE SMITH (born 1964)

Ad(dress) Rehearsal – Wesley, 2014

Giclée print on Canson Platine Fibre Rag
60.96 x 76.2 cm

Ad(dress) Rehearsal – Golda, 2014

Giclée print on Canson Platine Fibre Rag
76.2 x 60.96 cm

VANLEY BURKE (born 1951)

Step into the unknown, Soho Road, 1983

Silver gelatin print, edition of 5
30.48 x 40.64 cm

Molly, YWCA Bristol Road, 1983

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print, edition of 5
40.64 x 30.48 cm

Carey's finger (The Accused), date TBC

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print, edition of 10
35.56 x 26.41 cm

African Drummers, Africa Liberation Day Handsworth, 1977

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print, edition of 5
40.64 x 30.48 cm

Girls perform the songs of the Supremes, Handsworth, 1970

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print, edition of 5
40.64 x 30.48 cm

Supplementary Education, Wilks Green Infant School Handsworth, 1975

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print, edition of 5
30.48 x 40.64 cm

James Hunt on the campaign trail, Soho Road, 1983

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print, edition of 5
40.64 x 30.48 cm

On-yu Bike, Handsworth Park, 1970
Selenium-toned silver gelatin print, edition of 5
30.48 x 40.64 cm

Blackpool Day Trip, 1975
Selenium-toned silver gelatin print, edition of 5
30.48 x 40.64 cm

ABDULRAZAQ AWOFOESO (born 1978)

Joshie, 2022 (ECFA2223)
Pallet wood, acrylic paint
113 x 31 x 5 cm

Mabel, 2022 (ECFA2224)
Pallet wood, acrylic paint
72 x 56 x 4 cm

FARWA MOLEDINA (born 1993)

Four prints from *Women of Paradise, 2023* (enlarged for the GAC):

Aasiyah (a.s.)

Maryam (a.s.)

Khadijah (a.s.)

Fatimah (a.s.)

All Giclée Hahnemühle Photo Rag – 308gsm
All 50.8 x 38.1 cm

5.2.2 TenTen Fund

SOHEILA SOKHANVARI (born 1964)

Ode to Love (Portrait of Marzieh), 2023
Egg tempera on calf vellum, 22.9 ct gold on the neckline
17.3 x 13.8 cm

5.3 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/Herald Street

The artist has completed the work with rocks from the four different areas covered by the State of New York. EG will install the work 23–28 March and an event will be held at the Residence in celebration later this year.

5.3.1 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. The building works have begun with an estimated completion date of October 2023.

Further to discussions with FCDO colleagues and the architects, Gustafson, Porter + Bowman, and in consultation with members of the Commissioning Sub-committee in January, we have reduced our initial proposal to a shortlist of three artists with a view to commissioning new work.

We are working with FCDO colleagues to prepare a funding submission paper for the Permanent Under-Secretary (PUS), which will be used to secure the budget that the GAC requires to take this forward with the

artists. A decision on funding is due by 1 April. In the meantime, galleries and artists have been approached to gauge their appetite and timelines for commissions.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF GAC ACTIVITIES SINCE 11 NOVEMBER 2022

The Committee noted the GAC's activities since 11 November 2022.

7. AOB

There was no other business

8. Date of next meeting

Thursday 13 July 2023