

Minutes of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Summary of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023 at the GAC Offices

Present:

Sir David Verey CBE - Chair

Ex Officio:

Nicholas Cullinan - Director, National Portrait Gallery

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

Clare Lilley - Director of Programme at Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Afua Nkansah - Asamoah (Youth Member) - Cultural Producer

GAC staff in attendance:

Madeline Betts

Nicola Freeman

Suzy Murray

Andrew Parratt

Theo Weiss

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Alex Farquharson, Gabriele Finaldi, Lisa Kennedy, Ben Luke and Mary Ann Prior.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 March 2023

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair.

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 informed of the TenTen 2023 print launch event at No.10, discussions took place on funding for the education initiative to get TenTen prints into Schools and outreach for Bradford 2025 City of Culture, and it was agreed to review names from the existing long list for the 2024 TenTen Award.

4. ACQUISITIONS

4.1 Acquisitions since 15 March 2023

The Committee noted the acquisitions.

4.2 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:

4.2.1 Purchased by the GAC

AUBREY WILLIAMS (1926–1990)

Eco Cataclysm, 1989

Acrylic on paper

48 x 60.5 cm

Quartet No.11, Opus 122 (Shostakovich series), 1981

Oil on canvas

132 x 203 cm

PAUL DASH (born 1946)

The Red Painting, 2022

Oil on canvas

131 x 105 cm

CHRISTINA KIMEZE (born 1986)

Still III, 2023

Oil, pastel and oil stick on suede matboard

81 x 102 cm/83.5 x 104 x 5 cm (framed)

ZINEB SEDIRA (born 1963)

The Lovers II, 2008

C-print

Edition 3/4 120 x 100 cm

NOÉMI GOUDAL (born 1984)

Tropiques II, 2020

C-print

Edition of 5 (plus 2 APs) 200 x 160 cm

FLORENCE PEAKE (born 1973)

Coagulated Matter 1, 2021

Acrylic paint, oil paint, oil stick, gaffa tape, Golden pumice medium, acrylic pens, golden clear tar gel medium

76 x 76 cm (FPE082)

Factual Actual Performance Documentation 23, 2022

Acrylic paint on holographic card

15 x 10.7 cm/28 x 23 x 2 cm (framed) (FPE055)

Factual Actual Performance Documentation 27, 2022

Acrylic paint on holographic card

15 x 10.7 cm/28 x 23 x 2 cm (framed) (FPE051)

HUMPHREY OCEAN (born 1951)

Winnie (Portrait of Winnie Hall), 2023

Gouache on paper

77 x 56 cm

KEITH PIPER (born 1960)

Final Frontiers, 1994-2023

High resolution scans from an original light box, wax thermal printout

The series *Final Frontiers* was produced as part of the Tall Ships commission for Greenwich Festival in 1994.

We are remaking this work for the Collection. Approved for digital acquisition and production

Under Further Consideration

HELEN CAMMOCK (born 1970)

I Decided I Want to Walk, 2020

Canvas, cotton drill and wool

200 x 300 cm

PaintedWoodPlumbLines, 2023

The above Helen Cammock works are to be kept on hold – a conversation with the artist is required to discuss the longevity and life cycle of both works, and the GAC needs to look into possible locations that would be suitable. Once completed a final decision can be made.

New Contemporaries

The Committee were informed that the 2023 artworks have been selected by Helen Cammock, Sunil Gupta and Heather Phillipson, and the exhibition opens at Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool (30 September – 16 December 2023) and tours to Camden Arts Centre (19 January – 31 March 2024).

The GAC shortlist was presented to the Committee for discussion, and the following artworks were subsequently approved for acquisition:

CAI ARFON BELLIS (born 1997)

Mirror Arch, 2022

Charcoal on canvas

95 x 135 cm

THOMAS CAMERON (born 1992)

Delivery, 2022

Oil on canvas

112 x 152 cm

4.2.2 Art X-UK National Networks

The CVAN West Midlands selection panel put forward three members of the Blk Art Group, founded in Wolverhampton in 1979, for acquisitions in 2022–23: Vanley Burke, Keith Piper and Marlene Smith. We have since collected works by Marlene Smith and Vanley Burke (and we are proposing below that a further set of photographs by Vanley Burke are acquired, as part of the Coronation commissions, see 4.3.1).

The Committee was informed that the GAC hosted the selection panels for Scotland and the North East at OAB in June, and artist shortlists from both panels will be completed by the end of July. The majority of Art X-UK works will be presented at the November Advisory Committee meeting.

Moira Jeffrey, Director of the Scottish Contemporary Arts Network (SCAN) in Glasgow, convened a panel consisting of: artist Alberta Whittle; Myriam Mouflih, curator and writer, Glasgow; Dr Dominic Paterson, Curator of Contemporary Art, The Hunterian, University of Glasgow; and Dr Stephanie Straine, Senior Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Adam Pugh, Director of CVAN North East (now Art Network North East) brought together: artist Kathryn Elkin; Clare Gomez, Director, Workplace Gallery; Elinor Morgan, Artistic Director, MIMA; Niomi Fairweather, Curator (Local), BALTIC.

Art X-UK focus areas beyond 2023–24:

2024–25 Northern Ireland, North West

The GAC is planning a Northern Ireland trip in late 2023 to develop a network to work with for 2024–25.

2025–26 Wales, Yorkshire, East (2025 UK City of Culture: Bradford)

2026–27 Scotland, South East, South West

4.3 Commissions

Consul General's Residence, New York City

The GAC Director and Nicole Wermers installed the completed work *Rockdispenser (NYPANJCT)* in March 2023. The 'dispenser', with rocks from the four different areas covered by the State of New York, is framed by the New Jersey skyline. Alongside the Richard Wentworth series *The Repatriations*, this concludes the Outset/ GAC Fund.

FCDO Quad

The GAC submission to secure funding to commission artworks for the FCDO Quad, was put on hold while the landscaping of the Quad continues at good pace. The area has been futureproofed so there is a possibility that the commissioning project will be revisited at a later stage.

4.3.1 Coronation commission acquisitions

SHANTELL MARTIN (born 1980)

Historic - Diptych, 2023

Ink on canvas

121 x 152 cm

VANLEY BURKE (born 1951)

Posting invitation for the community to share in celebrating King Charles's and Queen Camilla's Coronation, New Style Radio, Dudley Road, Birmingham. 6 May 2023, 2023

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print

40.64 x 30.48 cm

Watching the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla at New Style Radio, Dudley Road, Birmingham. 6 May 2023, 2023

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print

40.64 x 30.48 cm

Mrs Maghee-Belgrave on the throne, Fiction Arts, Cheapside, Birmingham. 6 May 2023, 2023

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print

40.64 x 30.48 cm

Watching news of the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. 06 May 2023, 2023

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print

40.64 x 30.48 cm

Community Cohesion Day 1, King Charles's and Queen Camilla's Coronation celebration, Handsworth. 7 May 2023, 2023

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print

40.64 x 30.48 cm

Community Cohesion Day 2, King Charles's and Queen Camilla's Coronation celebration, Handsworth. 7 May 2023, 2023

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print

40.64 x 30.48 cm

Community Cohesion Day 3, King Charles's and Queen Camilla's Coronation celebration, Handsworth. 7 May 2023, 2023

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print

40.64 x 30.48 cm

Street celebrations of the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla on Mayhurst Road, Truemans Heath, Birmingham, 7 May 2023, 2023

Selenium-toned silver gelatin print

40.64 x 30.48 cm

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF GAC ACTIVITIES SINCE 15 MARCH 2023

The Committee noted the GAC's activities since 15 March 2023.

6. AOB

Announcement of new Chair to replace Sir David Verey.

Request for valuation of remaining prints available for sale from Tenten commissions.

7. Date of next meeting

Thursday 16 November 2023