



department for
**culture, media
and sport**

Government Art Collection
2-4 Cockspur Street
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www.gac.culture.gov.uk

Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 29 June 2006 at the GAC Premises

Present

Chairman: Julia Somerville

Members: Dr. Penelope Curtis, Stephen Deuchar, Margot Heller, Sandy Nairne, Sarah Shalgosky, Alan Davey (DCMS), Penny Johnson (GAC Director)

GAC: Malcolm Steer, Adrian George, Julia Toffolo, Alison Fuller (observer)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Charles Saumarez-Smith. The Chairman reported that Nick Hackworth has resigned from the Committee due to business reasons. The Chairman welcomed Stephen Deuchar, Director of Tate Britain, as the Tate representative in place of Nicholas Serota, who will continue to be involved in the Committee from a distance.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Meeting, held on 9 March 2006, were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Station 2005 sculpture by Darren Almond

This work of art was still under discussion, although its current availability for purchase had not been confirmed. The Committee asked the Director to investigate the purchase further.

Freedom of Information

The Director reported that five cases had been answered since the previous Committee Meeting. The Committee discussed recent developments concerning the release of purchase prices by museums and galleries.

4. Acquisitions

Acquisitions since 9 March 2006

The Committee noted the Director's list of acquisitions since the last Meeting. They were also shown two paintings by Victor Pasmore (**The Space Within or the Forest of Douanier** Rousseau 1987-88) and William Gear (**Spring Song** 1951) purchased at Sotheby's on 28 June 2006.

Decisions on Proposed Acquisitions

The Committee approved the purchase of the following works of art:

Print for a Politician 2005 3-plate etching by Grayson Perry

The Committee approved the purchase of this work from the Paragon Press.

Safe Light, Reflected Ballroom 2003 1/4 C-type photographic print on aluminium in Perspex by Jane & Louise Wilson

The Committee approved the purchase of this work from the Lisson Gallery.

Time here becomes space / Space here becomes time by Cerith Wyn Evans

The Director showed images of this neon, which is made up of two separate pieces. The Committee asked the Director to investigate any issues which could limit its display location.

5. Sculpture for the Ambassador's Residence, Washington, DC

The Director reported that the UK Ambassador to Washington would like to acquire an additional outdoor sculpture for display in the Garden of the Residence to mark the 80th birthday of HM The Queen. The Director had advised the Ambassador that the most appropriate way forward might be for the Embassy to purchase an existing work or commission a site-specific sculpture.

6. New British Embassy, Doha

Adrian George showed the Committee plans and elevations to illustrate the possible location of works of art in this new building. The new glass wall of a first floor Meeting Room forms the main commission brief, with approaches already made to several artists.

7. New Home Office Building, Marsham Street, London

Adrian George reported on the latest position regarding the Public Art, Interior Art and Communications Strategies, and included brief updates on the works of art commissioned from Simon Periton, Emma Kay and Eva Rothschild.

8. Other New Building and Refurbishment Projects

New British Embassy, Sana'a, Yemen

Adrian George reported that Jenny West's proposal had now been taken forward and fabricated, with a planned installation date of late August/early September 2006, the only commissioned work of art for the project. There was also potential for a purchase of an existing work by another artist, dependent on the final budget.

Refurbishment of the DCMS Building, Cockspur Street, London

Adrian George reported that following the positive reception of Henna Nadeem's, Catherine Bertola's and Simon Faithfull's manifestations, the DCMS had asked the GAC to investigate the potential for commissions for two further floors of the building that had been outside the original scope of the project. There might also be further developments in this regard on the ground floor, should any refurbishment take place there.

Department for Constitutional Affairs, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London

The Director reported that informal meetings had taken place with the majority of the artists on the list for commissions and/or purchases, and that firm proposals would be tabled at the next Advisory Committee Meeting. The DCA had so far been unable to provide any details on future occupation of the building.

9. Director's Report on GAC Activities since 9 March 2006

The Committee noted the contents of the Director's report.

10. Any Other Business

The Director reported that for the first time the GAC had participated in Museums & Galleries Month, holding a day of public tours of the GAC's premises on Saturday 3 June, with around 140 visitors.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

Wednesday 22 November 2006 at 16:30 hours.