

# National Portrait Gallery

## 745th MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Trustees held at the National Portrait Gallery on  
Thursday 30 June 2011

**Present:** Professor Sir David Cannadine (Chairman)  
Professor Dame Carol Black  
Sir Nicholas Blake  
Dr Rosalind P. Blakesley  
Dr Augustus Casely-Hayford  
The Marchioness of Douro  
Kim Evans  
Lord Janvrin  
Mary McCartney  
Sir William Proby  
Mr David Ross  
Professor Marina Warner

**In attendance:** Mr Sandy Nairne, Director  
Mrs Pim Baxter, Deputy Director  
Mr Jacob Simon, Chief Curator

### 1. Chairman's business

The Trustees joined the Chairman in congratulating the Director on his recent award as CBE. The Chairman reported that interviews had been held, and a recommendation made, for a Trustee with financial expertise.

### 2. Apologies for absence and Declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Zeinab Badawi, the Rt Hon. Nick Clegg and Sir Nicholas Grimshaw. Lady Douro declared an interest in the Gallery's proposed Wellington exhibition in 2015 on which she and her husband were advising.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2011 were approved.

### 4. Matters arising

The Director reported that Tarnya Cooper had been appointed as Chief Curator to take up post in October. She would have the support of a junior curator in her ongoing responsibilities for the Gallery's 16th-century collection. The Director drew attention to the continuing discussions between DCMS and the Treasury on the unresolved issue of cover for reserves. The Gallery's need was to draw on reserves to cover running costs as planned and to have access to major donations for project work. The Director also reported that the purchase of the portrait of Queen Anne of Denmark had been completed.

### 5. Director's report

The Director reported on a range of matters. Trustees received most Gallery book publications to enable them to carry out their duties as Trustees. The BP Portrait Award launch and dinner went off extremely well. The Staff Art Show was now open and had been managed without drawing on Gallery resources. The Director recognised that there was pressure on staff in the current economic climate, including over pensions which were outside the Gallery's control. There were compensating factors: staff recognised that we

were not in a position at present of making redundancies and the arrival of Adrian Jackson as Head of Visitor Services and Security had been welcomed. The Director reported that Celia Joicey, Head of Publications, had tendered her resignation.

## **6. Portraits on offer**

The Chief Curator and curators reported on acquisitions.

- THE TRUSTEES agreed to the acquisition of the portraits on the appended list

## **7. Commissions**

Rosie Broadley, Associate Curator, Contemporary Portraits, reported on the status of current commissions, including those of Tony Blair, Sir Nicholas Serota, Dame Kelly Holmes and Ken Livingstone.

There was a discussion on future commissions, as the first stage in selecting possible subjects. Attention was drawn to the following areas of national achievement: filmmakers, crafts people, footballers, dancers, designers, children's writers, animation, particular political figures, gardeners, landscape architects and environmentalists, philanthropy and charitable giving, sports figures in the run up to 2012 and engineers. The Chairman asked that staff draw up a short paper reflecting the discussion.

*Action point: Staff to draw up a short paper reflecting the discussion on future commissions.*

## **8. Finance and Planning**

Sir William Proby drew attention to the smaller than budgeted deficit in the final Management Report for 2010-11, as part of the Trustees' review of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2010-11. This outcome was the result of very good efforts in income generation and sponsorship and of significant underspends in some areas. Nick Hanks, Head of Finance and Planning, stated that there were sufficient unallocated resources in the Investment and Contingency Fund to support planned deficits in future years. Sir William noted the importance of the success of the BP Portrait Award and the Lucian Freud exhibitions to financial results in the current year.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the Annual Report and Accounts to 31 March 2011

## **9. Audit and Compliance Committee**

David Ross, Chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee, said that they had welcomed a new member to the committee, Neil Spence, and were proposing another to ensure that meetings were quorate. The committee had reviewed the Register of Interests of Trustees. It had also reviewed the Corporate Risk Register, where it had focused on reputational risks around sponsorship and on investment risks. The committee had examined the Gallery's anti-fraud framework, the internal audit reports and the Company Risk Register. Trustees asked about staff morale (there would be a further staff survey next year) and the risk from terrorism (where there were reasonable controls in place). The Trustees welcomed the annual report by the Chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee to the Board of Trustees on the work of the Committee during the year.

The Director drew attention to the important role played by the Audit and Compliance Committee in advising on improving the guidance to judges involved in the selection of the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the appointment of Jacqueline Riding as an independent member of the Audit and Compliance Committee for a period of two years

*Action point: Head of Finance and Planning to arrange for the anti-fraud framework paper to be distributed to Trustees*

#### **10. Freedom of Information update**

The Director drew attention to the annual report to Trustees on Freedom of Information requests. The Gallery now has delegated responsibility for answering Parliamentary Questions. There had been a fall in the number of Freedom of Information requests. Complaints had been made to the Information Commissioner's Office concerning two of the Gallery's FOI responses. In both cases the Information Commissioner found in favour of the Gallery.

#### **11. Health and Safety Policy**

Judith West, Head of Resources, drew attention to the revised Health and Safety Policy which had been rewritten in three sections, a statement of intent, the necessary organisational setup reflecting specific responsibilities among staff at all levels at the Gallery, and the detailed arrangements in which reference was made to supporting forms and procedures. In response to questions, Judith West agreed on the importance of staff well-being.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the Health and Safety policy

#### **12. The East Wing**

Judith West reported on negotiations with the National Gallery on a longer lease for parts of the East Wing, ownership of which had been transferred by the Portrait Gallery to the National Gallery as part of the agreement for the development of the Ondaatje Wing which opened in 2000. The Trustees welcomed the proposal for a longer lease and approved in principle the payment of an annual rent to the National Gallery for the East Wing. They agreed to the Chairman being kept informed on their behalf on negotiations before the next meeting of the Board of Trustees.

*Action point: Judith West to arrange a brief tour of the East Wing spaces for any Trustee*

#### **13. Annual Exhibitions Report**

Sarah Tinsley, Head of Exhibitions and Collections Management, reported on the positive experience in the range of recent exhibitions and their critical reception nationally and internationally, despite lower attendance figures which appeared to result from a confluence of particular factors rather than being part of a trend. In the current year, the *BP Portrait Award* had started strongly, *The Queen: Art & Image* had opened in Edinburgh and *Lucian Freud Portraits* augured well.

The Director and Sarah Tinsley presented details of the forward programme. It featured one ticketed exhibition each year with a target attendance of 100,000-plus, Freud in 2012, Man Ray in 2013 and David Bailey in 2014. The programme for 2015 was being shaped. There was increasing competition from other London galleries for photographic exhibitions. Some exhibitions, such as George Catlin and the Wellington anniversary exhibition, were seen as being appropriately free of charge.

#### **14. Matters for report**

Reports on Communications and Development, Resources, Learning and Loan requests were noted.

#### **15. Any other business**

There was no other business.

## Appended list of portraits on offer

**6919 OLIVER ST JOHN, 1st BARON ST JOHN OF BLETSO**, courtier; Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, oil painting by Arnold Bronckorst, 1578  
Purchase at Cheffins Fine Art Sale, Cambridge, 8 June 2011, at £17,625 noted

**6920 JOHN WILLIAM WATERHOUSE**, figure painter, oil painting by William Logsdail, c.1887  
Purchase at the Canterbury Auction Rooms, 24 May 2011, at £18,316.67 noted

**6921 DAME CHRISTABEL PANKHURST**, militant suffragette; daughter of Emmeline Pankhurst, oil painting by Ethel Wright, 1909  
Bequest from Elizabeth Weare accepted

**6922 HUMPHREY SPENDER**, photographer, artist and designer, oil painting by John Banting, c.1934  
Purchase from Brendan Finucane at £10,000 approved

**P1666-P1685** Twenty bromide prints by Rollie McKenna

**SIR KINGSLEY AMIS**, novelist, 1957

**GEORGE GRANVILLE BARKER**, poet, 1951

**BILL BRANDT**, photographer, 1953

**DAVID EMERY GASCOYNE**, poet, 1951

**ROBERT GRAVES**, poet and writer, 1969

**THOMSON WILLIAM ('THOM') GUNN**, poet, 1957

**SEAMUS HEANEY**, poet, 1969

**EDWARD JAMES ('TED') HUGHES**, Poet Laureate, 1959

**ELIZABETH JENNINGS**, poet, 1957

**PHILIP LARKIN**, poet and novelist, 1960

**LOUIS MACNEICE** (1907-1963), poet, 1954

**JOHN MINTON**, painter and illustrator, 1951

**JOHN OSBORNE**, playwright and actor, 1957

**SYLVIA PLATH**, poet, 1959

**KATHLEEN RAINE**, poet, 1951

**SIR HERBERT READ**, critic and writer on art

**DAME EDITH SITWELL**, poet, 1953

**DYLAN THOMAS**, poet (three portraits, 1952-3)

Gift from the photographer's estate accepted

**ALDOUS HUXLEY**, novelist, photograph by George Platt Lynes, 1946  
Purchase from Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York, at \$5,500 approved

**6923 SHARMISHTA ('SHAMI') CHAKRABARTI**, lawyer and human rights campaigner; Director of *Liberty*, photograph by Gillian Wearing, 2011  
Commissioned from Gillian Wearing approved at £30,000 with support from J.P. Morgan through the Fund for New Commissions