

National Portrait Gallery

729th MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting of the Trustees held at the National Portrait Gallery on
Thursday 12 July 2007

Present: Professor David Cannadine (Chairman)
Mr Nicholas Blake
Professor Robert Boucher
The Marchioness of Douro
Sir Nicholas Grimshaw
Professor Ludmilla Jordanova
Mr David Mach
Mr David Ross
Professor Sara Selwood

In attendance: Mr Jacob Simon
Ms Alexandra Finch

1. Chairman's Business

The Chairman reported on the appointment of Baroness Ashton of Upholland as a Trustee in place of Baroness Amos and on the reappointment of Amelia Fawcett and Robert Boucher as Trustees for a further period of four years from 20 June 2007. He also reported on the appointment of James Purnell as Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport and of Margaret Hodge as DCMS Minister of State. James Purnell used the National Portrait Gallery as the setting for his first public address to arts leaders on Friday 6 July. The Chairman noted that the Chief Curator was acting on behalf of the Director at the Trustees meeting in the absence of the Director on study leave in America as previously notified.

2. Apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Baroness Ashton of Upholland, Ms Zeinab Badawi, Ms Amelia Fawcett, Ms Flora Fraser, Sir Christopher Ondaatje, Miss Alexandra Shulman and Sir John Weston.

Sir Nicholas Grimshaw declared his interest in the Tate Collections Centre, a declaration previously recorded in the Trustees minutes for the meeting held on 23 November 2006.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2007 were approved.

4. Matters arising

The Chief Curator reported that the Gallery had decided not to bid on the portrait of Jedediah Strutt and had failed to acquire the photographs by John Deakin at auction. The bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Collections Centre had now been submitted by Tate. The Chairman drew attention to the improvement in visitor numbers since those reported to Trustees in April. Trustees noted the greater level of visitor complaints concerning value for money in the *Face of Fashion* exhibition and welcomed the broadly positive reception of *Between Worlds*.

5. Director's Report

On behalf of the Director, the Chief Curator reported on the successful launch of the *Daily Encounters* exhibition and on the prospective development of the Gallery's website. He drew attention to increased security checks on Gallery visitors in the current situation and Trustees asked that further training should be considered for staff so that the public has a stronger sense of the Gallery's vigilance. The Chief Curator thanked Nicholas Blake for his part in hosting the semi-finals and finals of the Institute of Ideas/ Debating Matters 6th-form debating competition at the Gallery on 3 July. He drew attention to the new Gallery Trading Company and to the Gallery's acceptance of the internal audit recommendation that Trustees should appoint an additional, independent, director of the company, in addition to the the first directors of the Company.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the appointment as first directors of the trading company of David Cannadine, Sandy Nairne, Rob Carr-Archer and Pim Baxter

6. Portraits on offer

The Chief Curator reported on the prospective purchase of the portrait of John Fletcher which the Trustees had agreed in principle at the May meeting, subject to confirmation of the identity of the portrait, negotiations on price and fundraising. Catharine MacLeod, Curator of 17th-century portraits, had prepared a note confirming the identity of the portrait as John Fletcher. Following external advice and inconclusive discussions with Sotheby's to consider valuation evidence, negotiations have now led to a reduced asking price for the portrait of £400,000. The Chief Curator reported that the Gallery would attempt to negotiate a slightly lower price and would then enter into discussions on the net price after tax concessions. He also put forward an outline strategy for raising funds towards the acquisition.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the acquisition of the portrait of John Fletcher at a gross price of up to £400,000, subject to funding
- THE TRUSTEES agreed to the acquisition of the portraits on the appended list and noted portraits purchased since the previous meeting

7. Commissions

Sarah Howgate, Contemporary Curator, updated the report on current commissions. Discussions on artists are taking place with Lord Bingham and Lord Rees. She thought that it should be possible to complete the portrait of Lord Bingham before he leaves office in June 2008. A fuller report on photograph commissions would be brought to the next meeting.

8. Finance and Planning

Jenny Dewhirst, Acting Head of Finance, introduced the 2006/7 End-of-Year Report and the 2006/7 Annual Report and Accounts. Robert Boucher stated that it had been a good year and drew attention to the increase in self-generated income. He commended the Annual Report and Accounts. In discussion, it was reported that tangible fixed assets, currently subject to an indexation adjustment, are due to be revalued in 2008, that we have not yet received confirmation of end of year flexibility from DCMS but in prior years funds have not been clawed back, and that the Gallery had met its DCMS Funding Agreement targets.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007

9. Audit and Compliance Committee

On behalf of the Chairman of the Audit and Compliance Committee, the Chief Curator reported on the recent review of the Risk Management Register, noting in particular the change from Red to Amber of risk O4 *Loss or damage to NPG collection of loans in or property* as there have been no incidents for some time, although the Gallery remains vigilant. He also noted the change from Green to Amber of risk B3 *Governance and management effectiveness*. This reflects a temporary increase in risk due to turnover in the Head of Finance and Planning post. Interim arrangements are in place to cover the period until the new post holder starts in September but there will be an inevitable loss of knowledge.

The Chief Curator reported that a briefing paper on the process of identifying Related Party Transactions would be brought to the next meeting of Trustees following the appointment of the new Head of Finance. The Audit and Compliance Committee had approved the recommendation, subject to approval by Trustees, that Stephen Souchon be co-opted to the Committee for a further two years.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the reappointment of Stephen Souchon to the Audit and Compliance Committee for a further two years to June 2009

10. Intellectual Property Rights Policy

Bernard Horrocks, Copyright Officer, reported on the Intellectual Property Rights Policy, which the Trustees warmly welcomed. It was confirmed that the policy will be made public on the Gallery website. Bernard Horrocks also assured Trustees that action is taken to agree copyright and other rights at the time a portrait is acquired.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the Intellectual Property Rights Policy

11. Revised Exhibitions and Displays Policy

Sarah Tinsley, Head of Exhibitions and Collections Management, drew attention to the revisions in the policy. In discussion, in section 1, it was suggested that understanding of and engagement with the Collection should come first and that sustainability, whether of the environment or of audiences, should be clarified. It was reported that a paper on sustainability was due to come to the next meeting of Trustees. In section 5 it was suggested that the meaning of Biographical and Monographical exhibitions should be clarified for public use. The Trustees welcomed the policy, which will be made public on the Gallery website.

- THE TRUSTEES approved the Exhibitions and Displays Policy

12. Annual Exhibitions Report

Sarah Tinsley reported on lessons learnt from recent exhibitions. From the *Face of Fashion* exhibition, she highlighted the importance of the layout of the exhibition in influencing perceptions of value for money and of the need for a really clear brief and tight contract for external designers. In *Between Worlds*, well received as an exhibition, responses had been broadly positive but the use of both a comments book and visitor comment forms was seen to be confusing. She reported that *Battle of the Bands* was no more than a working title. Trustees expressed interest in seeing the executive summary review of the *David Hockney Portraits* exhibition.

13. Matters for report

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

14. Any other business

The Chairman drew attention to the Trustees' Review Day to be held at the British Academy on 20 September. On other matters, it was suggested that the Editorial Advisory Board should meet on a regular pattern twice yearly, and the attention of Trustees was drawn to the opportunities that the Temple's 400th anniversary provided next year.

The Chief Curator said that the Gallery wishes to make application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding for a new scheme, provisionally entitled *Real People, Extraordinary Lives*.

- THE TRUSTEES resolved that Liz Smith, Head of Learning and Access, be authorised to act as the official contact for the Heritage Lottery Fund application, and that the Director be authorised to sign the relevant Declaration in the application

Appended list of portraits on offer, 2007

6816 VICTOR MUSGRAVE, art dealer, poet and collector, painting by Maggi Hambling, 1977
Purchase approved at £1,000

6817 THE SITUATION GROUP, painting by Sylvia Sleigh, 1961
Purchase from the artist through the 1-20 Gallery, New York, approved at \$28,000

P1291 IAN BREAKWELL, artist, 'Host and Parasite', self-portrait photograph, 2005
Purchase from the Anthony Reynolds Gallery approved at £5,000

6819 DAVID HOCKNEY, artist, 'Self-Portrait with Charlie', 2005
Purchase from the artist approved at \$300,000

P1274 KATE MOSS, fashion model, photograph by Corinne Day, 2007
Transfer to the Primary Collection from the Photographs Collection approved; commissioned from Corinne Day for £1000 plus printing and other expenses of £2432.78

Two photographs by Mario Sorrenti

P1275 POLLY JEAN ('P.J.') HARVEY, singer, 1995

P1276 KATE MOSS, fashion model, 1993

Purchase and partial gift from the photographer approved at \$2750

P1277 DAVID BOWIE, singer, film and stage actor, photograph by Steven Klein, 2003

Purchase from the photographer approved at \$5000

Three photographs by Paolo Roversi

P1278 JOHN CHARLES GALLIANO, fashion designer, 2005

P1279 JUDE LAW, actor, 2006

P1280 TILDA SWINTON, actress, 1996

Gift by the photographer accepted

P1281-90 Ten photographs, 'Faith and Church', by Don McCullin 2006

Transfer to the Primary Collection approved from the Photographs Collection; commissioned from Don McCullin for £9500.

ANTHONY MICHAEL ('TONY') BAYFIELD, Rabbi; Head of the Movement for Reform Judaism

ESME CHRISTIANA BESWICK, Pentecostal minister; General Secretary, Joint Council for Anglo-Caribbean Churches

CORMAC MURPHY-O'CONNOR, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster

SYED AZIZ PASHA, Secretary General of the Union of Muslim Organisations

KATHLEEN MARGARET RICHARDSON, BARONESS RICHARDSON OF CALOW, Teacher and Methodist minister; Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council

SIR JONATHAN HENRY SACKS, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth

SIR IQBAL SACRANIE, Founding Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain

OM PARKASH SHARMA, President of the National Council of Hindu Temples

INDARJIT SINGH, Founding Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations

ROWAN DOUGLAS WILLIAMS, Archbishop of Canterbury

6818 TONY BEVAN, artist, self-portrait painting, 1992

Purchased with Chairman's approval at Christie's South Kensington on 20 June 2007 for £44,620