

National Galleries of Scotland Board of Trustees

Minute of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held in the Boardroom, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art Two, Belford Road, Edinburgh on Monday 21 November 2016 at 1400 hrs.

Present: Ben Thomson, Chairman Edward Green
Alistair Dodds Nicky Wilson
Benny Higgins Nick Pearce
Willie Watt Catherine Muirden

In Attendance: Sir John Leighton, Director-General
Christopher Baker Patricia Convery
Frank Gribben Nicola Catterall
Jacqueline Ridge Simon Groom
Brian Doneghan, Head of Operations (item 5.4 only)

Apologies: Tricia Bey
Tari Lang
Lesley Knox

Secretariat: Elaine Anderson

Action

Open Business

1 **Chairman's Business**

1.1 **Management Changes**

The Director-General detailed progress with the changes to management structure. The Senior Management Team had discussed and approved the changes. The Director-General had also met with curators to outline the plans for a new Director of Collection and Research. The plans were being shared with the rest of the staff at briefing sessions over the following two days.

The timeline for implementation was July 2017, by which time the new director would hopefully be in place. This was an important aspect of delivering the brand strategy.

1.2 **Five Stars**

The Chairman congratulated the team on gaining five star status for the Portrait Gallery from Visit Scotland. It was hoped to achieve five stars for all sites in the

coming months.

1.3 Chairman Recruitment

The Chairman noted progress with the recruitment schedule for his successor. The post was due to be advertised in mid-December, closing mid-January. A standard letter was available for trustees who wished to draw anyone's attention to the advert. It was noted that Mr Thomson's tenure had been extended to 30 June 2017 to accommodate the new appointment.

1.4 Proposed Acquisition of *Monarch of the Glen* by Landseer

The Chairman congratulated the team on the pursuit and speedy conclusion of negotiations on the potential acquisition of Landseer's *Monarch of the Glen*. Media coverage had been positive and it was hoped that funds could be raised in the coming months to complete the purchase.

2 Minutes

2.1 Minute of the Meeting of 12 September 2016

The minute of the meeting of 12 September 2016 was approved as a correct record.

3 Matters Arising

It was noted that Mr Higgins, Ms Wilson and Mr Green had agreed to assist Mr Groom in developing the strategy for contemporary art and also feed into the Kelvin Hall discussions and development of a contemporary art programme at the GMA.

Open Business

4 Corporate and Business Planning

4.1 Q2 2016/17 Corporate KPI Report

The progress report was noted.

5 Departmental and Gallery Reports

5.1 Scottish National Gallery and Scottish National Portrait Gallery

Mr Baker outlined the report, noting that *The Goldfinch* had arrived. Sponsorship funding had been used to market its arrival and this had brought in a good

number of visitors.

5.1.1 Long Loan (over £50k): *Étretat, the Needle Rock and Porte d'Aval, the Cap d'Antifer (Cliffs at Etretat)*, Claude Monet (1840-1926). Approved.

5.2 **Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art**

Trustees noted the report.

5.2.1 AIL (over £50k): *1932 (profile: Venetian red)*, Ben Nicholson (1894-1982). Approved.

5.2.2 Long Loan (over £50k): *Lo Strappo*, Alberto Burri (1915-1995). Approved.

5.2.3 Long Loan (over £50k): *Figure Study 2*, Francis Bacon (1909 - 1992). Approved.

5.2.4 Long Loan (over £50k): Benjamin Crème, *Sybilline Figure*, 1943
Paule Vezelay, *Composition*, 1933
Pablo Picasso, *Portrait de Jacqueline accoudee*. Both approved.

5.3 **Audience Engagement**

5.3.1 **Quarterly Report**

Trustees noted the report.

5.3.2 **Visitor Figures: September - October 2016**

The visitor figure reports were noted.

5.4 **Operations**

5.4.1 **Estates Report: Proposed Capital Spend**

Mr Doneghan joined the meeting and explained the content of the Quinquennial Report. The report reviewed only the fabric of the buildings and recommendations had been put into a list of priorities for NGS to consider. Costs had been flagged with Scottish Government.

It was noted that the Audit & Risk Committee had reviewed the report. £2m was sought to address immediate, urgent and necessary works over the next five years. Trustees approved the plan to seek funding from Scottish Government to fund the works. Trustees also noted the list of shovel-ready projects which may be done if funding became available from Scottish Government at the financial year-end.

6 Public Programme 2016–20

The Board noted the latest version of the public programme schedule.

7 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at 2pm on Monday 23 January 2017 in the Boardroom, Modern Two.