

**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 4th February 2019, 1300hrs

Present: Benny Higgins, Chairman
Tricia Bey
Alistair Dodds
Tari Lang
Nick Pearce
Willie Watt
Audrey Carlin
Edward Green
Catherine Muirden
Hannah Rudman

In Attendance: Sir John Leighton, Director-General
Chris Breward
Jo Coomber
Bryan Robertson
Jacqueline Ridge
Fiona Buchanan, Women on Boards participant
Dr Simon Groom, Director of Contemporary and Modern
Art (item 5)
Valerie Urquhart, Director of Finance (item 7)

Secretariat: Nicola Coutts

Action

Open Business

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Chairman's Business

The Chairman notified Trustees that he has asked Alistair Dodds to take up the role of Deputy Chairman. The Chairman also welcomed Bryan Robertson, new Chief Operating Officer.

3 Minutes

3.1 Minute of the Meeting of 26 November 2018

With one amendment added, the minute of the meeting of 26 November 2018 was approved as a correct record.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 **Contemporary Art**

Dr Simon Groom in attendance

Dr Groom set out the vision, ambition and key questions regarding contemporary art at the National Galleries of Scotland.

Dr Groom explained that contemporary art is art that is made now – it pushes the boundaries, it's cutting edge. Examples of work by David Shrigley, Martin Creed, Olafur Eliasson and Roman Ondák were shown. Each very different works but all regarded as contemporary art.

Scotland is increasingly recognised internationally for the strength of its contemporary art, and for the opportunities it offers. It also has a number of contemporary Turner Prize Winners and nominees including Douglas Gordon, Richard Wright, Martin Boyce, Simon Starling, Susan Philipsz and Duncan Campbell. The 2018 winner, Charlotte Prodger, was born in Aberdeen and NGS is working with her on the Scottish contribution to the Venice Biennale 2019. Artists like Karla Black, Martin Boyce, Alison Watt, Jim Lambie are all based in Scotland and are keen for someone to promote and collect their work. NGS needs to look for a way to nurture this and support the sector.

Dr Groom discussed the success of GENERATION which was inspired by artists who lived and worked in Scotland over the last 25 years. They have contributed to Scotland's international reputation as a distinguished centre for contemporary art. Over 100 artists took part in GENERATION exhibitions in 2014, across 61 venues throughout Scotland, with 1.3 million visitors.

The current expression of Contemporary Art is through NOW (a series of six, free contemporary art exhibitions staged over 3 years with the last one in May 2020). All the NOW displays have been well presented and successful. Making use of the last 2 episodes of NOW to help fundraise for future exhibitions is a potential opportunity.

Dr Groom went on to talk about Partnerships, including ARTIST ROOMS and how this has reached over 50 million people. Closer to home there is potential for NGS to be involved in Kelvin Hall in Glasgow.

Discussions were opened up to Trustees.

Discussion redacted.

Trustees thanked Dr Groom for his presentation.

6 Director-General's Report

The report was noted. The Director-General provided an update on ARTIST ROOMS. A new business plan is being developed in consultation with the Artist Rooms Foundation. .

Reserved Business

7 Financial and Staffing Matters

Discussion redacted.

8 8.1 Major Projects Progress Reports

Discussion redacted.

9 Reports

9.1 Collection Quarterly Report including acquisitions

The report provided a selection of recent acquisitions and a list of agreed loans.

Discussion redacted.

Open Business

9.2 Public Engagement Quarterly Report

Ms Coomber presented highlights from the quarterly report.

The Trading Company have gone into profit for the year to date. The BEINGS exhibition (latest project by the Outreach team) is providing disadvantaged young people across Scotland the chance to use the NGS collection to express their own emotions and ideas. Young Scot launched their report into their National Youth Arts Advisory Group (NYAAG) at the Portrait Gallery on 4th February with Fiona Hyslop attending. She also visited the BEINGS exhibition while at the event.

The Pop-up Book shop which has opened at the Portrait Gallery has received positive feedback and all sales are incremental to the plan.

Ms Coomber was pleased to announce that a new Head of Audience and Visitor Insight has been appointed and will start on the 18th February. Their background is in innovation and digital.

There has been some great new PR in Grazia magazine and the GQ website. NGS has also embarked on a partnership with Paolozzi beer. Andy *Warhol and Eduardo Paolozzi – I want to be a machine* will be promoted on their beer mats.

Trustees asked for a paper on the vision and programme of the Portrait Gallery to be brought to the Trustees meeting on 25th March.

9.3 Public Programme

9.3.1 Quarterly Report
Noted.

9.3.2 Visitor Figures: November – December 2018
The visitor figure reports were noted.

10 Any Other Business

N/A

11 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday 25th March 2019 at 1300hrs in the Boardroom, Modern Two.

Trustees Visit to Granton

12 Briefing before Departure

All Trustees and SMT visited Granton site for the National Collections Facility, and Granton Art Centre.