

## 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 23 January 2017 at 1400 hrs.

**Present:** Ben Thomson, Chairman                      Tricia Bey  
Alistair Dodds    Nicky Wilson  
Benny Higgins    Lesley Knox  
Willie Watt    Catherine Muirden

**In Attendance:** Sir John Leighton, Director-General  
Christopher Baker                                      Patricia Convery  
Nicola Catterall    Simon Groom  
Jacqueline Ridge

**Apologies:** Tari Lang  
Edward Green  
Nick Pearce

**Secretariat:** Elaine Anderson

### Action

### *Open Business*

#### 1 Chairman's Business

##### 1.1 Contemporary Art Group

Mr Groom reported that the Contemporary Art Group had held its first meeting in December. The Board was keen to receive feedback on the discussion in due course.

##### 1.2 Recruitment of New Chairman

It was noted that the closing date for applications was end-January 2017. Trustees were invited to consider if they knew of anyone who might be interested in applying.

All

##### 1.3 Board Strategy Meeting: May 2017

The Chairman sought topics for discussion at the next strategy meeting on 15 May 2017. Trustees agreed to consider if there is anything they would particularly like to discuss.

All

##### 1.4 Management Structure

In the event of external comments or queries, the

Chairman reminded trustees to emphasise their full engagement and commitment to the re-structure.

## 2 Minutes

### 2.1 Minute of the Meeting of 21 November 2016

The minute of the meeting of 21 November 2016 was approved as a correct record.

## 3 Matters Arising

It was noted that the minute from the previous meeting stated that Modern One had achieved 5\* status from Visit Scotland. Ms Convery explained that Modern One had been confirmed as 4\*, which was still a good result. Work was being done with the staff to ensure that 5\* could be achieved and retained in the future.

Colleagues discussed some of the ways in which staff could engage with visitors while walking through the galleries.

## 4 Departmental and Gallery Reports

### 4.1 Scottish National Gallery and Scottish National Portrait Gallery

Mr Baker outlined the report and invited questions. Mr Baker explained his involvement in China with the "Portrait Now" competition. The Chairman commented that he was involved with the Scotland-Asia network and offered to pass on contact details.

BT

### 4.2 Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art

Trustees noted the report.

Mr Groom reported also that a meeting had taken place in December of the Contemporary Art Committee. A paper would be circulated more widely in due course. It was suggested that this topic could be discussed at the Strategy Day in May. It was noted that Trustees were keen to have feedback on the discussions. The Chairman also noted that he was hosting a dinner the following week to explore options going forward.

SG  
EA

#### 4.2.1 Long Loan Request: *Blaze 1* by Bridget Riley

Mr Groom explained the background to the loan. It was intended to show it as part of the permanent collection display. Approved.

### 4.3 Audience Engagement

4.3.1 **Quarterly Report**  
Trustees noted the report. Ms Convery outlined progress with the brand strategy, noting that it was near completion. The next step was to look at brand identity. The Chairman considered that this was worth wider discussion with Trustees and may be a topic for the Strategy Day in May. EA

Ms Convery also explained that the intention was to marry up the corporate strategy with brand values starting with a discussion with the Senior Management Team the following week.

4.3.2 **Visitor Figures: November-December 2016**  
The visitor figure reports were noted.

## 5 **Public Programme 2016–20**

The Board noted the latest version of the public programme schedule. Trustees considered that it would be helpful to note opening dates for shows where they were known. Ms Anderson agreed to produce a diary for Trustees including all committee dates and openings/events. EA

## 6 **Any Other Business**

6.1 **Trustee Appraisals**  
The Chairman commented that he would be carrying out appraisals in the coming weeks. All

6.2 **Equalities Legislation**  
Ms Knox commented that she was keen to respond on the Board's behalf to the consultation on the Draft Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill. The Chairman commented that he intended to respond as an individual. It was agreed that quotas were not the best option. Diversity was important, but diversity across all protected characteristics, not just gender.

It was considered that people should be appointed on merit and not based on quotas. The Board was happy to encourage women to apply for Board positions, but legislation did not feel like the right approach.

Ms Anderson to work with Ms Knox to draft a response on behalf of the Board. EA/LK

**6.3 Chair Selection Process**

Trustees were keen to know when a new Chair would be appointed. It was considered unlikely that someone would be appointed on time to attend the Strategy Day in May, but someone should be in place by the summer.

**7 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Monday 27 March 2017 at 1400hrs in the Boardroom, Modern Two.