

National Galleries of Scotland Board of Trustees

Public minute of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held virtually via MS Teams on Monday 14 June 2021 at 1330hrs.

Present: Benny Higgins (Chairman)
Alistair Dodds Lynn Richmond
Chris Sibbald Nick Pearce
Edward Green Hannah Rudman
Tari Lang Andrew Wilson
Willie Watt

In Attendance: Sir John Leighton, Director-General
Jo Coomber
Jacqueline Ridge
Bryan Robertson
Line Clausen Pedersen
Leanne Maberley and Matt Ramagge (item 7)
Charlotte Topsfield (item 8.1)
Valerie Urquhart (items 9-11)

Apologies: Rucelle Soutar
Audrey Carlin

Secretariat: Elaine Anderson

Open Business

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

2 Chairman's Business

Nothing to report.

3 Minute of the meeting of 25 January 2021

The minute of the meeting of 29 March 2021 was approved as a correct record, with minor amendment.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Items 5-7 redacted – reserved business

8 Reports

8.1 One Collection

Ms Pedersen shared details of some recent acquisitions.

Trustees approved the following works for acquisition, all of which required the use of trust funds as outlined in the paper:

Marie au Tub s'épongeant. Marie in the bath tub, sponging herself (1908) Suzanne Valadon (1865-1938)

Portrait de Marie-Charlotte-Therèse Barbarroux, femme de l'artiste (1885) Henri Martin (1860-1943)
(External funding required – approved to proceed)

Panoramic view of the Old Town Edinburgh and Castle Elizabeth Sutherland Leveson-Gower, Duchess of Sutherland (purchased at auction – retrospective approval)

Plates 1 - 6 from "The Kings Quair" William Bell Scott

Primitive Seating, 1982 Dorothea Tanning (part purchase, part gift)

The following gifts were approved:

10 works from the series Scots Jews: Identity, Belonging and the Future Judah Passow (gift from Edward Green, trustee)

Ben Thomson John Byrne (gift from the sitter, former Chairman of NGS)

8.1.1 ***Panoramic view of the Old Town Edinburgh and Castle by Elizabeth Sutherland Leveson-Gower, Duchess of Sutherland***

Presentation from Charlotte Topsfield

Ms Topsfield shared images of this rare work, which had recently been acquired, and explained a bit more detail about the artist and view of Edinburgh. There were a number of examples of the artist's print work in the collection, but this was the first watercolour. There were now enough works by women artists of views of Edinburgh to enable a display to be mounted in the new Scottish Gallery.

8.2 Public Programme 2021-22

Ms Pedersen shared details of the current and forthcoming public programme. An Isaac Julien exhibition was planned for Modern One from the end of July until October as part of the Edinburgh Arts Festival. Ms Pedersen shared some of the details of the show.

There would also be an exhibition relating to COP 26 and the climate emergency, in collaboration with NLS, and this theme would stretch across the collection at the time of the conference at the end of the year.

8.3 Public Engagement Quarterly Report

Ms Coomber shared some of the content of the Public Engagement report. The digital offer on Harryhausen was selling well. The exhibition was nominated for a number of awards. Trade in the shop was also exceptional and the conversion rate was high.

A play area would be set up for the school holidays in the grounds of Modern One.

There had been a return to some in-person work in the community, although it had been difficult to navigate within the current restrictions.

Ecommerce continued to do well and donations remain high.

Modern One café had reopened following refurbishment and was trading well, staying open 7 days despite the gallery only being open part-time.

8.4 Chief Operating Officer's Report

The report was noted.

Items 9-10 redacted – reserved business

11 Compliance & Risk

11.1 Performance Management 2020-21: Q4

The results for Q4 were noted.

11.2 Risk Registers

11.2.1 **Strategic Risk Register**

The changes to the risk register were noted.

11.2.2 **Recommendation on the Approach to Risk Appetite**

Mr Dodds explained the recent discussion at the Audit & Risk Committee on risk appetite. The Leadership Team and Audit & Risk Committee had agreed risk appetite scores across all four risk categories and recommended those scores to the Board.

This offered a way forward for the Board to support risk discussions going forward. Trustees approved the approach.

11.3 **Safeguarding (Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults)**

Nothing to report.

12 **Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

The Director-General thanked trustees for their additional input to recent discussions on branding and risk.

13 **Dates of Next Meetings**

Monday 13 September 2021 at 1330 hours.