

SPEAKER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WORKS OF ART

Note of the meeting held on 17 January 2024 at 4.30pm in Room 8 [INF02]

Members present: Dean Russell (Chair)
Simon Baynes
Sarah Champion
Rehman Chishti
Sally-Ann Hart

Apologies: Patrick Grady, Caroline Nokes

In attendance: Stacey Clapperton, Curator
Melissa Hamnett, Chief Curator of Works of Art and Director of
Heritage Collections
Patricia Hardy, Deputy Chief Curator
Lord Faulkner, Chair of the House of Lords Works of Art Panel
Emma Gormley, Curator
Whitley Lane, Secretary
Edward Potton, Secretary
Charles White, Media Officer

1) Informal Note

The Chair noted an amendment to the informal note, regarding the condition check of items in the collection take place after a general election.

The Committee **agreed** the informal note of the meeting on 6 December.

Matters arising

Member changes

The Committee welcomed Rehman Christi as its newest member. The Chair thanked Gagan Mohindra for his service on the Committee and the Collections Advisory Group.

2) 2024 Election Artist commission and history

Emma Gormley, Curator, and Melissa Hamnett, Director of Heritage Collections and Chief Curator of Works of Art, briefed the Committee.

Ms Gormley presented images of past election works commissioned by former Committees, explaining that the initiative of an Election Artist had been introduced in 2001 and different styles and mediums had been used in that time.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** to commission an artist to represent the 2024 General Election. The Committee **requested** additional detail on the length of the Commission, use of third parties

to help with identifying and supporting artists, and further exploration on the remit and style of the Commission.

3) Heritage Collections storage and conservation facility project

Melissa Hamnett, Director of Heritage Collections and Chief Curator, briefed the Committee.

Ms Hamnett noted the storage and conservation provision for the Heritage Collections was currently inadequate to meet our custodial duties and business as usual requirements; R&R and the decant of the Palace would also require significant storage capacity and conservation of the collections. The Committee last considered the requirement for a storage and conservation facility in 2022 when they were consulted on the strategic requirements for the project in RIBA stage 0. The Committee was updated on how options for the delivery for the facility are being developed in RIBA stage 1. It would likely take 4-5 years before the facility could be delivered and perhaps another 6-12 months before it was fully operational.

Decision

The Committee **noted** the update and expressed its support for the project.

4) Potential donation: Sir Charles and Sarah Barry wax busts

Dr Stacey Clapperton, Curator, briefed the Committee on the potential donation of two wax busts of Sir Charles and Sarah Barry. The Committee were provided with information on the costs of display and preservation.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** to decline the wax bust donations due to cost and limited display options.

5) Loan request: Theresa May portrait

Emma Gormley, Curator, briefed the Committee.

The Committee discussed the loan request for the portrait of Rt Hon Theresa May for May 2024.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** the outward loan request in principle, pending satisfactory conditions for display, transport and insurance.

6) Loan renewals and returns

Dr Stacey Clapperton, Curator, briefed the Committee on each proposed renewal and return. The curatorial team would bring a paper to the Committee in the future to consider a wider strategic loan returns policy.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** all proposed loan renewals and returns.

7) Willoughby Collection Works on Paper display

Dr Stacey Clapperton, Curator, briefed the Committee on a proposed display in Millbank House.

The Committee discussed the context of the display and its contents. The collection had been gifted to the House of Commons.

Decision

The Committee **agreed** the proposed 'Willoughby Collection Works on Paper' display for Millbank House reception area.

8) Any other business

The Committee **noted** the monthly highlights paper.

The Committee **noted** the financial statement.

9) Date and time of the next meeting

The Committee will next meet on 28 February 2024 at 4.30pm.