

# **SPEAKER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WORKS OF ART**

## **Annual report to the Finance Committee**

### **Financial Year 2014–15**

---

1. This report covers the financial year 2014-15 and is submitted to the Finance Committee.
2. A Statement of Accounts for 2014-15 is annexed to this report.

#### **Work of the Committee**

3. The following Members served on the Speaker's Advisory Committee on Works of Art during the period covered by this report:

Mr Frank Doran (Chairman)  
Sir Alan Haselhurst  
George Hollingbery  
Mr David Lammy  
Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger

Alison McGovern  
Caroline Nokes  
Mr Charles Kennedy  
Jacob Rees-Mogg  
Hywel Williams

4. The Committee held nine committee meetings between the beginning of April 2014 and the end of March 2015. In addition, on 9 September 2014, the Committee toured the Parliamentary Archives, together with members of the Lords Works of Art Committee, to learn about the storage, accommodation and conservation of the document holdings and options for relocation of the Archives from Victoria Tower.

## Acquisitions and Commissions

5. The Committee was allocated £75,000 for its general Acquisition Fund during 2014-15, with access to a further £25,000 if required and subject to approval by the Finance Director. All works of art purchased during the year have been added to the Permanent Collection of Works of Art in the House of Commons.
6. During the financial year, the following works of art have been acquired:
  - a. Photographs of the Banking Commission commissioned from Ian MacDonald.
  - b. A study, by Charles Sims, of the Commons Chamber for a painting showing the introduction of Lady Astor into the House of Commons in 1919.
  - c. A portrait painting of Rt Hon Dame Dawn Primarolo commissioned from Richard Brazier.
  - d. A National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) badge.
  - e. A National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage badge.
  - f. A landscape painting by Winston Churchill acquired through Acceptance in Lieu of Tax from the Soames family. The painting had previously been on long term display in the House of Commons. The painting would now be displayed in the 'No' lobby accessible to the public on the tour route.
7. Following interviews held in March 2014 an artist in residence, Mary Branson, was commissioned to develop proposals for a work of art to commemorate the women's suffrage movement. The Committee subsequently agreed a design – entitled 'New Dawn' – for an installation artwork commemorating women's suffrage to be installed in St Stephen's Porch. The artwork will be installed in time for the 2018 anniversary marking 100 years since the Representation of the People Act. The budget ceiling for the project is £120,000. Fifty per cent of the funding will be drawn from the Committee's 2014-15 and 2015-16 budgets and fifty per cent from the Speaker's Art Fund, with a generous donation of £10,000 from the House of Lords. In order to maintain Member oversight beyond the 2015 Election the Committee agreed to set up a steering group to monitor the project before the formation of the new Committee. A draft media and communication strategy for the project was also agreed by the Committee.
8. Following interviews with shortlisted candidates held on 28 October 2014 the Committee noted the panels' selection of Adam Dant as the House's Election Artist for the 2015 General Election. The artist's fee for the project was £17,000 with travel and subsistence in addition (up to a ceiling limit agreed by the Curator).

## **Loans**

9. The Committee agreed to acquire on loan a painting of the 1834 fire, attributed to B R Hayden, from a private collection, for six months. It showed a unique view of the fire from Parliament Square.
10. The Committee loaned a portrait of Paul Boateng by Jonathan Yeo, 2004, to the National Portrait Gallery for an exhibition at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle between November 2014 and February 2015.
11. The Committee agreed to acquire on loan from the House of Lords a portrait of Baroness Hayman, Lord Speaker, by Sergei Pavlenko, a portrait of Baroness Amos by Paul Benney, a selection of photographic works by Desiree Pfeiffer and a photographic portrait of Baroness Seear. The works were displayed as part of the 'Women in Parliament' exhibition in Portcullis House, which ran from February 2015 until the end of July 2015.
12. The Committee loaned the painting of 'Mrs Thatcher and the Ghosts of the Belgrano' by Gerald Scarfe, to an exhibition of the artists' work at the Bowes Museum, running from 13 March to 31 May 2015.
13. The Committee loaned fifteen of the twenty-four photographs recording the 2010 General Election by Simon Roberts, the House's official Election Artist, to the Photofusion Gallery for an exhibition running from April to May 2015.
14. The Committee loaned the painting of 'Donegal' by Thomas Burke to an exhibition of his work at Chester Cathedral running from late February to 10 April 2015.
15. The Committee noted the termination of the loan to the House of Commons by Gerald Scarfe of the artists' drawing of Churchill's last day in the Commons, which had hung in Portcullis House.
16. The Committee agreed to grant Leinster House a licence to use a high quality photograph printed on canvas of 'The Men Who Made Home Rule' by William Drummond Young. Leinster House had requested the use of a facsimile as a permanent alternative to a loan of the artwork.
17. The Committee agreed to extend the loan of the statue of Margaret Thatcher by Neil Simmons to the Corporation of London for display in the Guildhall Art Gallery for a further term. The Committee also noted the relocation of the statue within the Guildhall to a more suitable, publicly accessible, location.

## **Moves**

18. During summer 2014 there were over 1000 moves involving around 500 works of art. The figure included two sets of moves for some high value

works due to renovation works in the banqueting rooms.

## Exhibitions

19. This year the Committee has sponsored several exhibitions across the Estate:
  - St. Andrew and the Recording Angel – Portcullis House glass wall display, June 2014
  - St. Andrew and the Recording Angel - pop up display on St. Stephen's flats near the war memorial, Summer 2014
  - Attlee anniversary – display outside of the Attlee Suite (in association with Kingston University), September – December 2014
  - 'Musical Chairs', Ramsey McDonald and Stanley Baldwin, items from the Willoughby Collection – 1<sup>st</sup> floor Portcullis House display cabinets, Summer 2014
  - Frank Salisbury drawings - Portcullis House glass wall display, September – October 2014 for Open House weekend
  - Photograph of Labour Women by Lord Snowden, 1960s (new acquisition 2013) - Portcullis House glass wall display October 2014
  - 'If Parliament were called up' cartoon by Bernard Partridge (new acquisition 2013) - Portcullis House glass wall display November 2014
  - Commons Chamber by Charles Sims (new acquisition 2014) - Portcullis House glass wall display November 2014
  - 'Winston Churchill: politician and Prime Minister' - Portcullis House glass wall display January – February 2015
20. Web-based exhibitions are created based on the topics of the physical exhibitions as well as an accompanying lecture series.
21. The Committee has also approved and supported the following major exhibition in Portcullis House:
  - The 'Women in Parliament' exhibition running from February 2015 until the end of July. The exhibition of over 80 works chronicles more than a hundred years of women's influence on Parliament, as campaigners, voters and parliamentarians. Covering the period 1784 to 2014 it includes portraits, cartoons, photographs and prints showing how women influenced and participated in the business of Parliament.

## Events

22. The Committee supported the third International Women's Day Lecture to be hosted by the House of Commons. The lecture was on Irene Ward MP. Ward had had an interest in women's suffrage and became a Member of Parliament in 1931, becoming the longest serving woman MP, holding the Tynemouth seat from 1950 until 1974. Aged 79 at retirement, Ward was the oldest ever serving female Member of Parliament, and also the oldest sitting Member at that time. The speaker was Helen Langley, a historian and former manuscript curator at the Bodleian Library. As part of the event Mary Branson, Artist in Residence for Women's Suffrage, gave an illustrated talk on her residency in Parliament to research and design a work of art to permanently commemorate women's suffrage.
23. The Committee supported various projects being run by the House of Commons for the 2015 Year of Democracy including the Westminster Hall banner project. The project covered a large number of anniversaries with a remit to tell the 800 year history of democracy in the United Kingdom. The

project was launched on 20 January 2015 to coincide with the anniversary of the Simon de Montfort Parliament of 1265. Seven artists had been given a brief to design banners of specific themes which included: the Petition of Rights, the Race Relations Act, Federations of Women's Societies, Simon de Montfort and the Levellers, Magna Carta, the Catholic Emancipation Act, religious and non-religious freedoms, the 138 poor law, the NHS, and the Factory Act. The display was featured on BBC Radio 4 programmes, *In Touch* and *Front Row*.

24. An event was held to mark the opening of the 'Women in Parliament' exhibition in Portcullis House.

### **Conservation**

25. Textile conservation students took part in a conservation project on the collection of modern textiles in Portcullis House to ensure the longevity of the contemporary textile works.
26. The Committee discussed design proposals for a protective screen for the statue of Margaret Thatcher on loan to the Corporation of London. It was to be installed in order to stop visitors to the Guildhall from touching the marble.

### **Donations**

27. The Committee gratefully accepted the donation from the House of Lords of the sum of £10,000 to go towards the artwork commissioned by the Committee to commemorate the women's suffrage movement.
28. Having previously agreed a proposal from the National Secular Society that a portrait bust of Charles Bradlaugh be commissioned by the Society for donation to the House of Commons, the Committee agreed its preferred sculptor and first reserve to produce the bust. It was anticipated that the bust would be completed in 2016.

### **Public Engagement and Media Strategy**

29. The Committee issued two further editions of its newsletter to Members in order to raise the profile of the Collection and explain the work of the Committee.
30. Specialist Art and Architecture tours were conducted from May 2012 to September 2014. These tours generated £37,331 in revenue from 1708 ticket sales, helping to contribute to the revenue raised for the House as part of income generation activity. During this period Royalty and Splendour tours generated £20,365 from 704 ticket sales. There were 200 group bookings generating £6,000. Contemporary portraiture tours in Portcullis House generated £9,166 from 654 ticket sales. There were 150 group bookings generating £1,800.

1. The Committee authorised the new “Artwork of the Month” feature, which has been used to promote the collection on parliamentary social media channels. “Artwork of the Month” has also been used to promote loans authorised by the Committee, and has been tied in with broader House communications activities, such as the 2015 anniversaries programme.
2. Articles were placed in the Telegraph and the Observer announcing the Women in Parliament exhibition and the appointment of the Election Artist respectively. The latter received substantial national and international coverage. More low-key communications took place for the Dawn Primarolo portrait unveiling and the commissioning of “New Dawn.”

### **Financial position for 2015-16**

3. The Committee's general Acquisition Budget for 2015-16 is £75,000, with access to a further £25,000 if required and subject to approval by the Finance Director. Up to £26,500 has been committed from the 2015-16 budget for the installation (‘New Dawn’) commemorating women’s suffrage as agreed by the Committee. Other committed expenditure (£22,265) for portraits and the Election Artist would be drawn from the 2015-16 budget. The donation of £10,000 from the House of Lords will be available in 2015-16 to go towards the installation, ‘New Dawn’. The remaining balance of at least £26,235 (excluding the donation from the House of Lords) will therefore be available to the successor Committee in 2015-16.

## Account for the year ended 31 March 2015

### House of Commons Works of Art: Acquisitions Budget - 2014/15

Type	Work	Medium	Artist	Prev Years Spend £	2014/15 Total £	Total Spend £
Aquisition	Interior of the House of Commons	Oil on Canvas	Charles Sims	0	12,350	12,350
Aquisition	WSPU hunger strike medal			0	10,200	10,200
Aquisition	NUWSS pin badge and enamel badge for National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage			0	500	500
Commission	Artist in Residence		Mary Branson	0	7,000	7,000
Commission	Portrait: Dawn Primarolo		Richard Brazier	2,400	5,600	8,000
Commission	Rolling portrait programme			2,700	2,826	5,526
Commission	Election Artist		Adam Dant	0	10,100	10,100
Commission	Photographs: Banking Commission		Ian Macdonald	0	7,891	7,891
Commission	Suffrage artwork	Installation	Mary Branson	0	33,700	33,700
<b>Total Expenditure</b>				<b>5,100</b>	<b>90,168</b>	<b>95,267</b>
Annual Budget					75,000	
Agreed Drawdown from Reserve					15,168	
<b>Total Funding Available</b>					<b>90,168</b>	
<b>Remaining Budget</b>					<b>0</b>	