

**Confidential**

**SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES**

**BRUNEI GALLERY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on  
Wednesday 2nd November 2005**

Members      The Director (Professor C Bundy) Chair      \*=not present  
Dr J Carpenter  
Professor S Chan  
Professor C Clunas  
Dr A Contadini  
Professor L Croll  
Ms K Hazell  
Ms J Rankine  
Professor T Tomlinson

In attendance: Mr J Hollingworth  
Ms J Onyejiako

**1. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2005 were **APPROVED**.

**2. Matters Arising**

- 2.1 The Director welcomed Professor Stephen Chan and Dr John Carpenter to the Brunei Gallery Committee.
- 2.2 It was **NOTED** that the 10 year VAT clause which has now expired was fully explained by Mr John Hollingworth, in that services previously provided by the gallery could not be charged, such as evening receptions and use of materials, thus no profits were made towards the gallery's income under this clause. It was **NOTED** that Professor Tomlinson suggested that the Committee decide on approving a set of charges.
- 2.3 It was **AGREED** that the Director would write to Lynne Coates the proposer of Silent Spaces on behalf of the Committee, rejecting this proposal on the grounds that it was originally rejected on.
- 2.4 It was **NOTED** that Ms Joy Onyejiako the newly appointed Gallery Assistant has had her contract extended with thanks expressed by Professor Tomlinson and the committee.

**3. Recent and Current Exhibitions**

Mr Hollingworth reported on the success of recent and current exhibitions:

- 3.1 *The Barefoot Photographers of Tilona, India - Presented by the Barefoot College of Tilona, Rajasthan, India (11 April – 17 June 2005) Both Floors*

***Paradoxes – Student exhibition exploring contradiction***

*(18 April – 17 June 2005) Stairwell/Rotunda*

Press coverage in the usual listings and good coverage in Asian Press for Barefoot such as Global Indian and Asian Age. Visitors for the period were just over 9,000. There was also a private visit by HRH The Prince of Wales to the exhibition in June.

3.2 ***Hearing Voices – Sound Portraits from the Kalahari***

*(12 June – 23 September 2005) Ground Floor Front*

There was a well attended opening for this exhibition on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June with Professor Peter Austin representing the School.

There had been fair media coverage with Interviews conducted by Radio 3, Resonance FM, BBC World Service, with articles in Wire Magazine and other online arts magazines and usual listings.

It was **NOTED** that Dr. Anna Contadini brought a number of visitors from abroad to view the exhibition and all were very impressed. John Hollingworth mentioned that a group of music students are very interested in recording within the gallery due to the excellent acoustics.

3.3 ***Madagascar***

*(11 April – 17 June 2005) First Floor*

There was a small opening for this held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July with the exhibition being opened by Professor Colin Bundy and a short talk being given by Mark Jacob's the Director of the Azafady promoting the charity's work in Madagascar.

Usual on-line and hardcopy listings and featured in the Independent Newspaper.

Both Hearing Voices and Madagascar had extended openings until 30<sup>th</sup> September.

3.4 ***After Hiroshima – Nuclear Imaginaries***

*(11 July – 23 September 2005) Ground Floor*

There was a Private View on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July at which Professor Lisa Croll represented the School, with the other speakers being Fran Lloyd from Kingston University and Ian Pay as Campaign Director for Kingston Hospital Cancer Unit in which the exhibition was in aid of.

This exhibition had considerable coverage, with online and hard copy art listings, British Satellite News, ITN, Visit London (Digital TV station), review in Hampstead and Highgate arts pages and a number of items in the Japanese press such as Mainichi Newspapers.

A number of events took place to accompany the exhibition:

6<sup>th</sup> August for the commemorative day Dr. Sato from the Three Circles Temple gave a service followed by a number of musicians performing

traditional Japanese music throughout the afternoon with several students from our Music Dept involved. Just over 400 attended.

Artists roundtable talks in the Galleries,(23<sup>rd</sup> August), and a symposium (24<sup>th</sup> August) The exhibition has gone to Plymouth Arts Centre and then onto the Southampton Institute.

A reasonably good attendance for the summer with a figure of 5,850 visitors, which was lower than usual possibly due to the terrorist attacks which took place in early July.

It was **NOTED** that a sculpture was damaged and that this was the first ever time that this has happened at an exhibit and that the comments book had gone missing.

3.5 ***Design Made in Africa***  
(27 October – 25 November 2005) Main Galleries

This exhibition was originally to open on 12<sup>th</sup> October but this was put back due to hold ups in getting the exhibition to the U.K. and repair work required to many of the objects before they could be displayed.

A successful but small Private View was held for this on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October where Professor Colin Bundy represented the School, and the exhibition was opened by one of the designers from the show Fasil Giorghis from Ethiopia. The event included a traditional Ethiopian Coffee making with explanation for the guests. Attendance was not as high as was hoped as it clashed with other similar events also happening that evening.

There was a public lecture to accompany the exhibition on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> in the Brunei Gallery given by Fasil Giorghis.

Initial press coverage has been good with inclusion in contemporary design press for the first time, coverage by BSN and usual listings. It was **NOTED** that the exhibition catalogue was very impressive.

3.6 ***Africa's Forgotten Crisis***  
(27 October -25 November 2005) 1<sup>st</sup> Floor space,

There is to be a Private View of the exhibition on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November with Professor Colin Bundy representing the School, also speaking will be Ken Davies as Director of the World Food Programme in the U.K. and the Ugandan photographer James Akena.

Both of these exhibitions will close on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, allowing for the hanging of the Japanese Creative Tradition Exhibition, which will be for one week from 3 - 7 December 2005.

4. **Schedule 2005-2007**  
The schedule was **NOTED**.

5. **Forthcoming Exhibitions**  
Members **NOTED** the following report

5.1 *Creative Tradition (03 – 07 December) Ground Floor*  
The exhibition will open with an accompanying performance. It is proceeding well and Mr Hollingworth has met with the organisers a number of times and everything is in place.

5.2 *Egyptian Landscapes (18 January – 24 March 2006)*  
*Ground Floor/Lower Level*  
This is proceeding well and John Hollingworth has applied for Government Indemnity. The title has changed from Flowers of the Nile to Egyptian Landscapes. A number of events are being planned; public lectures, family days, weaving demonstrations and workshops throughout the show. It has been drawing a lot of attention. This exhibition will have Saturday openings. It was **NOTED** that the Egyptian Embassy should be consulted as to whether they would like to be involved.

5.3 *The World in Colours (April – June 2006) Ground Floor*  
With the Oriental Ceramic Society and PDF Proceeding well with opening planned to take place after Easter. April 24<sup>th</sup> – June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2006.

5.4 *Armenian-ness Gen (October – December 2005) 1st Floor space,*  
Dr Anna Contadini forwarded the contact details for the organizers to expand their project and link with relevant artists. The organizers have expanded idea to explore the diaspora by including artists from the UK, Europe, Iran and Armenia. This project has had added:

3 Armenian artists from Iran:  
Raffi Avanesian – photographer  
Hermineh Keshish – painter  
Henrik Babayan – painter

2 From U.K.  
Edman Oawazian – painter  
Karen Babayan – painter/printer

There is a comprehensive planned programme of accompanying events including Iranian/Armenian cinema in the context of art and identity, exploring Armenian/Iranian diaspora, artists' workshops with schools and adults and also a series of lectures.

The budget provided is realistic for the exhibition and such a programme, approx £85,000.00 of which approx. £20,000.00 is already obtained and a further £20,000.00 has been applied for in a series of grants.

It was **NOTED** that the committee expressed some concern over the visual material and that more art work had to be seen. It was **AGREED** by the committee to delegate to the management group the power to evaluate the quality of the work and make the final decision. It was **NOTED** that an emergency management group meeting would be held in order to review all the material by all the artists involved.

5.5 *Ibrahim El Salahi: An African Modernist (July – September 2006)*  
*Ground Floor/Lower Level*  
The Africa Centre are no longer involved and instead INIVA have taken over the organising of and are proposing a number of events. Elspeth Court is

proposing a 3 day symposium from 11 – 13 September 06 to accompany the show.

It was **NOTED** that Professor Craig Clunas expressed the importance of INIVA's involvement as they are the main leaders for African and Asian arts, covering important projects which usually maintain a high level of press and publicity. It was **AGREED** that this is a partnership that SOAS can nurture.

It was **NOTED** that the committee suggested that John Hollingworth politely enquire about the possibility of adjusting the title in favour of 'An African Modernist': as the prefix to Ibrahim EL-Salahi.

- 5.6 *Images from the End Game – Alexander Iyas (October – December 2006)*  
*Ground Floor*  
All well.
- 5.7 *Palestine Archaeology – Lower Gallery (October – December 2006)*  
Peter Ucko has confirmed this will go ahead and the Designer and Consultant Robin Wade has been engaged by the project and they are also presently raising funds.
- 5.8 *The New Mongolians (January – March 2007)*  
*Ground Floor (excluding rear)/Lower Level*  
This is proceeding well, with constant updates by the curator Prue Robinson who would like SOAS to be involved in a conference of some kind.
- 5.9 *Tapping into the Known – The Life and work of Christopher Okigbo*  
*Whole Gallery (April – June 2007)*  
All funding is now in place and it is proceeding well.
- 5.10 *(Views from) The End of Arabia: Contemporary Art from Saudi Arabia and Yemen*  
*Ground Floor/Lower Level (July – September 2007)*  
As discussed at the last meeting Dr. Anna Contadini has forwarded details for the organizer to make contact with and liaise amongst artists based in Saudi and Yemen that she is aware of, we have not yet heard back from Stephen Stapleton.
- 5.11 *Keepers of the Fire (October – December 2007)*  
There is still a possibility that this project may not go ahead, we are still waiting to hear from the organisers. It was **NOTED** that the chair mentioned that if there were any short fall in the funding, that this maybe met by the Zoroastrian community as the school has got good relations with the Zoroastrian community in London.
- 5.12 *Secrets of the River – Artefacts from the Brunei Museum*  
*(January – March 2008)*  
Brunei Museum has accepted the offer of this slot and has been in contact regarding gallery details. It was **NOTED** that Stacey Pierson of PDF is planning to hold a colloquy to accompany this exhibition. It was **AGREED** that the gallery would keep her informed of this projects progress.

## 6. New Proposals

- 6.1 *Post Gender: Identity, Sexuality and Performativity in Contemporary Japanese Art. Main Galleries (April – June 2006)*

Members **AGREED** that more time was needed to develop the ideas as it contains important cutting edge artists and more time is also required to secure the necessary funding. It was **NOTED** that 2006 is already scheduled but it could be considered for a slot in 2007, if views from Arabia or Keepers of the Fire do not proceed.

*Wood Fired Tea Bowls (Autumn – Onwards 2006) Main Galleries*

- 6.2 It was **AGREED** that the proposal must be considered in comparison with Armenian-Ness before a final decision is to be made. It was **NOTED** that the Korean audience would be interested particularly if it falls into ‘Korean Year’ It was **NOTED** that concern was expressed by the committee in regards to political sensitivities and the need to have control on the labelling.

It was **NOTED** that Nori Productions are known for producing good Korean music productions. The Chair, Professor Bundy suggested that Keith Howard of the Music department be contacted and enquire if he had been approached by the organizers.

- 6.3 *Face WSL0T (Women see lot of Things) 2008 - Onwards /Main Galleries*  
It was **AGREED** that the committee expressed provisional interest as the scheduling was so far ahead of the present programme that it could not be compared against future projects.

It was **NOTED** that Mr Hollingworth felt convinced that the technical plans could be applied on practical terms and Professor Lisa Croll mentioned the possible interest of Save the Children Fund whose offices are situated close to the school.

- 6.4 *From Soho Road to the Punjab (July – September 2007) 1<sup>st</sup> Floor space*  
It was **AGREED** that this proposal should be supported as it could tie in with Summer School events, including the use of the roof garden. It was **NOTED** that Professor Tomlinson suggested that the title might need to be different as it does not mean anything to someone who does not live or know the area of Handsworth.

## 7. **TREASURES OF SOAS**

It was **AGREED** that the display material would need to come from the schools Archives, as there are numerous materials which could be used for semi permanent display, such as David Livingstone’s original map which includes detailed drawings. It was **NOTED** this was due to there not being enough artworks currently on display, to make a coherent or good exhibition.

It was **NOTED** that concerns were expressed in the areas of conservation, resources, location and staffing. It was **AGREED** that these areas would require work. Dr. Anna Contadini confirmed that she was in talks with the British Museum who have expressed an interest in collaborating in the conservation of SOAS treasures. It was **AGREED** to proceed with the provisional January 2007 start date.

Professor Craig Clunas suggested that Stephen College in Chichester could be contacted as they have conservation students who under supervision require manuscripts, books etc to work on as part of their course. It was **NOTED** this could be one way of meeting some of the conservation requirements of the project.

It was **NOTED** that Dr John Carpenter expressed full support as this offered a great teaching opportunity for MA & PHD students, as SOAS has a collection of rare books and manuscripts, with the added possibility of ceramics being loaned by Lady Sainsbury and the British Museums interests might also include artworks presently in storage also being loaned.

It was **NOTED** that suggestions put forward for the treasures ranged from: the exhibit being a package that rotated on a six to twelve monthly basis, a display representing all of the key or main areas studied by the school to the treasures consisting of material that had previously never been shown, but it was **NOTED** that much of this material may need conservation,

It was **NOTED** that Pamela Barrett saw this as being attractive to the right kind of donor, with focus being on a great manuscript such as the Anvari Suhili Manuscript or the Livingstone Map with a constantly rotating exhibit being developed.

It was **NOTED** that Professor Lisa Croll asked what was available and that the Archives have not been completely catalogued, so there is currently no comprehensive list.

It was **NOTED** that the chair Professor Colin Bundy suggested that Professor Anna Contadini and John Hollingworth put on an indicative of 18 – 20 objects, with liaison between Michael Sherry as he might have a number of objects already photographed for marketing purposes.

It was **NOTED** that Professor Colin Bundy thanked John Hollingworth for his productive questions and the need to keep the item on the agenda.

**8. Preliminary Proposals Declined**

The preliminary proposals declined by the Management Group were **NOTED**.

**9. Any Other Business**

None to report

Joy Onyejiako  
08/11/05

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006 at 10.00am**