

Confidential

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

BRUNEI GALLERY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 11th May 2005**

Members The Director (Professor C Bundy) Chair *=not present
Professor C Clunas
Dr A Contadini
Professor R Fardon
Ms K Hazell
Dr D Khalili*
Ms J Rankine
Professor L Croll
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 23rd February 2005 were **APPROVED**. It was **AGREED** that future minutes should contain the dates of the next meeting and copies should be made available to external members.

2. Matters Arising

- 2.1 The Director welcomed Ms Joy Onyejiako as the new Secretary of the Brunei Gallery Committee.
- 2.2 It was **NOTED** that following a presentation and reception using the Transitions exhibition as the setting the International Advisory Board has offered a substantial pledge towards the School.
- 2.3 Katriana Hazell tabled the final version of the Asia Body Mind Spirit Exhibition Assessment Report. It was **NOTED** that this was the first formal study of an exhibition, the Gallery facilities and audience and provided very useful information for any future development.
- 2.4 Lisa Croll expressed some concern over sustained press coverage for the Brunei Gallery as it does vary from exhibition to exhibition and suggested that Mr. Hollingworth should contact the newly appointed Head of Communications for the School to explore this. It was **NOTED** that this is an area that Ms Onyejiako the newly appointed Gallery Assistant will be working on.

3. Recent and Current Exhibitions

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

- 3.1 *Transitions – Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe; 1960 - 2004*

(19 January – 19 March 2005) Both Floors

This was a highly successful and well attended exhibition with good press coverage with CNN and two other Television Companies having filmed the exhibition.

The overall attendance was around 10,500 and sales for the catalogue were the third highest so far. It was **NOTED** that although it was in conjunction with Africa 05 the promotional material for Africa 05 arrived after the close of the show.

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

This had a successful launch night officially opened by The High Commissioner of India, with Prof. Peter Robb representing the School. Good press coverage has been received particularly by the Asian Media and a piece in Time Out Magazine has helped to boost the numbers of visitors which has been approx 4000 to date.

It was **NOTED** that the intended visit of Prince Charles to the Barefoot exhibition although it being an unofficial private visit would be of considerable benefit to the school.

3.2 ***Paradoxes – Student exhibition exploring contradiction***
(18 April – 17 June 2005) Stairwell/Rotunda

This had a good opening/private view for this exhibition which was opened by Prof. Lisa Croll.

It was **NOTED** there was a delay in the opening of this exhibition to the public as some of the students involved had dissertations to hand in that week.

4. **Schedule 2005-2007**

The schedule was **NOTED**.

5. **Forthcoming Exhibitions**

Members **NOTED** the following reports:

5.1 ***Hearing Voices – Sound Portraits from the Kalahari***
(12 June – 23 September 2005) Ground Floor Front

This exhibition will have an opening on the evening of the 28th June, the exhibition will occupy the Ground Floor Front Gallery only and the Rear Gallery on the Ground Floor will have work from our Endangered Languages Project that will compliment the display.

Mr Hollingworth has been in discussion with the artist and Peter Austin to agree on the exhibitions content and format. The funding is in place and the project is proceeding well.

5.2 ***After Hiroshima – Nuclear Imaginaries (11 July – 23 September 2005)***

The largest source of funding (Arts Council) had fallen through; this money was required for some of the large artworks to be transported from Japan, thus one of the artists' will be unable to show his work. The Curator has selected an alternative artist who's work will be included as a replacement. The Japanese Embassy will be funding the accompanying Education programme aimed at summer schools and community groups.

There is a planned programme of events to mark the 60th anniversary of Hiroshima on Sat August 6th. Dr Sato from Three Wheels has kindly agreed to perform a peace ceremony and give a small speech, then Ms Shino Arisawa has kindly got together some Japanese musicians to perform from 2pm onwards - if weather is willing - firstly at the roof terrace following Dr Sato's peace ceremony and speech. Workshops: there will be artists helping the public to make paper cranes

August 9th Young People from the Positive Activities for Young People, Ealing will be working with artist Eric Wong in response to the exhibition.

September 24th – There is a proposed conference with which Dr. John Carpenter, SOAS is involved with that will have potentially 8 speakers, details are yet to be finalised.

- 5.3 *Madagascar (11 April – 17 June 2005) First Floor*
This exhibition is proceeding well.
- 5.4 *Flowers of the Nile (January – March 2006)*
This exhibition is proceeding well, Mr Hollingworth reported that the funding has been secured and this will assist in weekend openings. It was **NOTED** that there is an intended School's Education programme with this exhibition.
- 5.5 *The World in Colours (April – June 2006) Ground Floor*
This exhibition is proceeding well and will only be using the Ground Floor Galleries leaving the Lower Level Gallery currently unscheduled. It was **NOTED** there is a possible project from Dr. John Carpenter which might therefore be considered for this.
- 5.6 *Ibrahim El Salahi (July – September 2006)*
This exhibition is proceeding well and there have been meetings with the Designer and Curator for the project, this is another exhibition through The Africa Centre and is supported by INIVA.
- 5.7 *Images from the End Game – Alexander Iyas (October – December 2006)*
This exhibition is proceeding well; Mr Hollingworth recently attended a meeting with John Tchlenko and also the guest Curator John Falconer, British Library.
- 5.8 *The New Mongolians (January – March 2007)*
They have accepted this slot and the project is proceeding well with much of the funding now in place. The curator and organiser Prue Robinson is keen to talk to academics in order to put together a programme or seminar of events, also to organise the events.
- 5.9 *Tapping into the Known – The Life and work of Christopher Okigbo (April – June 2007)*

Have accepted the offer of this slot and are proceeding with funding applications.

5.10 *TBC (July – September 2007)*

5.11 *Keepers of the Fire (October – December 2007)*

They have accepted the postponed slot though it is 12 months later than they had hoped.

6. **New Proposals**

6.1 *Design Made in Africa (Main Galleries, October – December 2005)*

Members **AGREED** that the proposal should be supported as it would be the first exhibition of it's kind that had been staged by the Gallery and would suitably finish off our programme for Africa 05 . Professor Clunas expressed that it would be of great interest to a British Audience and would attract a new and varied public. It has academic support from John Picton and Elsbeth Court.

6.2 *Armenian-ness Gen (1st Floor space, October – December 2005)*

It was **AGREED** that the proposal should be declined for this slot though being of interest it needed more development. Dr. Contadini offered to liaise with Mr. Hollingworth and the proposer regarding the project. It was **NOTED** that Dr. Contadini is aware of an Iranian organization with similar artists working in this field.

It was **AGREED** that Mr. Hollingworth and Dr. Contadini would explore the possibilities of developing this project for consideration for the April – June 2006 slot, using the Lower Level Gallery.

6.3 *Africa Within (Main Galleries, October – December 2005)*

It was **AGREED** to decline this proposal as it was considered to be similar in nature to the recent Transitions exhibition, though not of the same quality.

Professor Fardon expressed concern that having viewed the proposer's web site the work was of a very similar nature and were all for sale.

6.4 *(View from) The End of Arabia (Main Galleries April – June 2007)*

It was **NOTED** that the proposal was submitted for the Spring 2007 slot but that they were aware this was now scheduled, the organisers were happy to be considered for the summer 2007 slot.

It was **AGREED** that the proposal was of interest but that discussions were required between Dr Contadini and curator Stephen Stapleton on the possible content. Professor Clunas expressed concern as to the nature of the exhibition. It was **NOTED** that they have academic support from Dr. Trevor H.J. Marchand and Dr. Roxanne Varzi.

6.5 *Secret of the River (Main Galleries, January – March 2008)*

It was **AGREED** that the proposal should be supported as the materials and exhibition as a whole are solid, and the area is an important site. Professor Clunas suggested that links should be made with the Percival David Foundation and the Chinese archaeology Department.

It was **NOTED** that The Institute of Archaeology would be very interested in the exhibition.

Mr Hollingworth will approach Professor Ulrich Kratz for an academic opinion. Professor Clunas suggested the possibility of contacting HEFC for funding.

6.6 *Silent Spaces (1st Floor space, October – November 2005)*
It was **AGREED** to decline this proposal as it has already been exhibited in London late last year, also that the Africa's Forgotten Crisis proposal was more suited to this years programme.

6.7 *Africa's Forgotten Crisis (1st Floor space, October - November 2005)*
It was **AGREED** that this proposal should be supported as a worth while subject fitting in well with the Development Studies here at the School and as part of the Africa 05 programme. The exhibition has the academic support of Professor Johan Pottier.

7. **Preliminary Proposals Declined**

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

8. **Any Other Business**

8.1 Japanese Creative Tradition 2005 Proposal (12 – 15 December)

Professor Tomlinson tabled a one week touring exhibition proposal by Koji Nohara from Digital Culture Japan, which is currently touring Europe and is looking for a single London venue. It was **NOTED** that the exhibition would consist of expressions of modern Buddhist art accompanying a concert programme of traditional Buddhist chanting . Professor Bundy suggested that an academic symposium should be organized as an accompaniment.

Mr Hollingworth confirmed he had met with organizers to discuss the possibilities, with the week of the 5th December being the only possible week it could be staged. It was **NOTED** this would require the main exhibition for that period to close two weeks earlier than originally planned.

It was **NOTED** that orchestrating the hanging of the exhibition would not pose a problem, as this would be an additional exhibition not budgeted for Koji Nohara would cover all costs incurred in the installation and take down of the exhibition.

It was **AGREED** that the project should be supported if the time slot we have offered them fits within their current programme tour.

8.2 It was **NOTED** that the Brunei Gallery has been included on a new cultural initiative The Museum Mile, a brochure map that connects 15 museums and galleries in the mile walk from Euston to Embankment. It was **NOTED** this was the first publicity for the Gallery and not an event.

Joy Onyejiako
12/05/05