

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART HELD BY  
CONFERENCE CALL, DUBLIN ON 12 JANUARY 2021 AT 13.00 PM**

Present: David Harvey, Mary Apied, Denis Hickie, Emma Goltz, Dermot Dwyer, John Cunningham, Gerard Byrne

Apologies: Jane Dillon-Byrne, Margot Lyons

In attendance: Annie Fletcher, Fintan McDonald (Company Secretary); Helen O'Donoghue and Penelope Kenny for selected items.

**1 Conflict of Interest**

All Directors confirmed that they had no conflict of interest in relation to the matters to be dealt with at this meeting.

**2 Opening**

David Harvey opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of the significant contribution that Tim Scanlan had made to the Board of IMMA during his five years' service. He has been an incisive and enthusiastic Board Colleague and a reliable and trustworthy friend. He deeply regrets Tim's untimely passing.

AF endorsed the contribution made by Tim and to the support he had given to the executive. The Minister has written to Tim's family to acknowledge his commitment, and tributes had been received from former Directors of IMMA. AF will look to mark his contribution in some way.

A unanimous vote of condolence was passed by the Board.

DH also extended his warmest gratitude to PK and DHickie who are now retiring from the Board. He noted the contributions they have made, joining IMMA at a time when finances were under great strain. He thanked PK for her stewardship of the FARC and noted the great advances made in the governance of IMMA. DHickie has worked tirelessly for the Board and was always well prepared for meetings with incisive questions and contributions.

PK thanked her colleagues on the Board and said that she felt she had given her best over the past five years and that it was time to move on. DHickie thanked DH for his leadership and thanked his colleagues for fond memories of addressing challenges both at the Board and the FARC. He made a point of acknowledging the contributions of former Museum Directors, Sarah Glennie and Moling Ryan, from whom he learned so much. He is delighted with the progress of IMMA and wished AF every success.

AF thanked PK and DHickie for their support, insight and guidance.

DH offered his congratulations to MA and DD on their re-appointment for a second term on the Board. DH has also been re-appointed for a further term. Eva Kenny has been appointed as a new Director and he hopes to welcome her to the February meeting.

There remain three vacancies on the Board and DH suggested a sub-group to consider the process of seeking new appointees.

PK left the meeting.

### **3 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 10 November 2020 were taken as read.

Minutes proposed for adoption by JC, seconded by DD and approved.

### **4 Matters arising**

None.

### **5 Director's Report**

- a) The country is now in Covid-19 Level 5 restrictions so the galleries are closed and there is a skeleton team on site for essential security and maintenance. It is hoped that when the government moves the country to level 3 museums will be allowed to open. As a consequence all exhibitions have been extended to at least May 2021.
- b) Discussions on how to celebrate IMMA's 30th Anniversary are continuing within the constraints of uncertainty. Planning for 2021 will involve much outdoor activity. IMMA improved its image as a civic space during 2020 and an Editorial Group has been formed to plan outdoor events from March onwards.
- c) Acquisitions, funded by the Department Grant, are progressing with a number of artworks acquired from five artists during December. Further purchases will be made in the first quarter of 2021. IMMA's Collection will be front and centre of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibitions. A cross-department group has been formed to curate the large Collection-based show, The Narrow Gate of the Here and Now.
- d) The partnership with Creative Ireland has been a great boon to the Art & Ageing programme. IMMA has produced a number of audio-visual works, suitable for dementia sufferers that have been published on the website, and programmes have commenced with nursing homes to facilitate exhibition tours and talks with residents.
- e) A large number of IMMA catalogues have been sent to schools, prisons and community groups to enhance art appreciation during the lockdown.
- f) IMMA is planning to extend its research capacity during 2021 with several applications submitted to the Irish Research Council.

### **6 E&L – Fulbright Scholarship Review – HO'D**

HOD was granted a Fulbright Scholarship in 2019 at MoMA in New York where she spent three months 2019-2020 reviewing their education and archiving practice.

HOD firstly thanked the Board for their support and acknowledged the opportunity given to her by the Fulbright Commission. HOD is passionate about learning and being mindful of MoMA's stage of development there was much to absorb. MoMA were then re-imagining their Collection

Policies and their Education programmes. MoMA has a dedicated education, learning and research centre, and Helen learned much from their experience. Helen also visited other museums including the Whitney Centre and learned about different archive strategies, and a variety of approaches to research and learning, all of which will assist in imagining how a future learning centre will fulfil IMMA's public mission.

## **7 Budget 2021**

The 2021 Budget was circulated with the meeting papers. FM explained the changes anticipated from 2020. The budget was proposed for approved, endorsed by the FARC Members who had discussed it at their meeting earlier today. It was approved unanimously.

## **8 Finance**

The Management Accounts to Period 11 were presented and discussed. FM also gave indications of the forecast year end position which was expected to show a surplus of close to €100k which is very close to the full year budget. This was supported by additional grants from the Department and Creative Ireland and by close control of costs.

## **9 Report from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee**

The committee met this morning, 12<sup>th</sup> January.

- a. Thanks were extended to PK and DHickie for their exemplary service over the past five years.
- b. Crowe Ireland have been appointed as the new Internal Auditors following an OGP Tender. The contract will be for an initial three year period.
- c. There was a discussion on IMMA's Charitable status. The new Governance Code has brought some additional governance administration but the maintenance of IMMA's charitable status is seen as essential to IMMA's self-projection and also to IMMA's ability to attract sponsors for its work.
- d. The Committee discussed the Risk Register and agreed to put some focus on Cyber Security. It was agreed to have an extended discussion on this subject at the April meeting.

## **10 Risk Register**

The revised Risk Register was circulated with the meeting papers. The Board continues to monitor developments.

## **11 Governance**

No updates

## **12 Acquisitions Fund – Christina Kennedy**

AF gave an update on recent acquisitions. In line with IMMA's role as the Irish centre for International Modern Art she was pleased to announce the acquisition of a significant work by the Otolith Group – 'Infinity minus Infinity' that will feature in the 2022 exhibition at IMMA. Also four works by Derek Jarman, and works by Betsabee Romero were acquired.

The Department fund to support Irish artists has been used to acquire works by Anne Tallentine, Vivienne Dick, Brian O'Doherty, Sibyl Montague, Bassam al Sabah, and Leanne McDonagh.

13     **AOB**

Sub-committees – There is a need to look in detail at the membership of sub-committees in view of changes in personnel. To be discussed in detail at the next Board Meeting.

EB will lead a review of the performance of the first year of AF's tenure.

14     **Close**

The next meeting is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021.