

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, AT THE HILTON HOTEL, KILMAINHAM, ON 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 13.10pm.**

Present: Ali Curran (Chair), Eva Kenny, Mary Apied, Gerard Byrne, Margot Lyons, Sinead O'Sullivan, Dermod Dwyer, Jess Majekodunmi, Mike Fitzpatrick, John Cunningham

Apologies : Emma Goltz

In attendance: Annie Fletcher, Fintan McDonald (Company Secretary); and for agenda items Christina Kennedy and Sheena Barrett

**1 Appointments**

Ali Curran was appointed by the Minister as Chair of the IMMA Board for a five-year term commencing on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023. John Cunningham and Margot Lyons were re-appointed by the Minister for a further two-year term commencing on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**2 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.

**3 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were taken as read.

The minutes to be amended to identify the location of the proposal for an IMMA Satellite in Ballina. The matter has been aired in the media.

Minutes were proposed for approval by JC, seconded by MA and approved.

**4 Matters arising**

No matters arising.

**5 Director's Report**

- a. Earth Rising, the second year of IMMA's EcoArt Festival will take place from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September. The event has been enlarged this year, extending to four days and with significant collaboration from DCU and Eco-Unesco. There will be a field tent, hosted by Jennie Moran and Gerry Godley to discuss all matters relating to food production and ecology, as well as quality, preparation and waste. The Minister will open the event. There will be media coverage from RTE and Nationwide.

- b. Self-Determination will begin a phased opening at the end of October. This is a very large-scale exhibition that will occupy three of the four gallery spaces. There will be a major opening event at the end of November. The October opening will be a 'soft' opening with no event.
- c. Howardena Pindell opened on 28<sup>th</sup> June with Penny Beckwith of the Guggenheim presenting a talk.
- d. Sarah Pierce 'Scenes of the Myth' closed with an event involving international speakers and a performance event. The exhibition will tour in Southampton and Leipzig. Discussions continue for further venues.
- e. The Jo Baer and Anne Madden exhibition is open in the courtyard gallery. Jo Baer has donated a significant artwork to IMMA.
- f. Professor Irit Rogoff, the Head of MA and PhD programmes at Goldsmiths College spent a month in the IMMA Residency in August. IMMA is in discussions about future research collaboration.
- g. Throughout the summer the Artist's Residency has welcomed a number of artists and curators. As a result of these residencies two Ireland-based artists have been invited to participate in the Sydney biennale.
- h. Ireland Invites: There will be an event on 20<sup>th</sup> October involving RSKG & EVA International, with National and International curators. IMMA continues to work with the Hugh Lane Gallery and Culture Ireland to promote international connections.
- i. IMMA Horizons - Lifelong Creativity for the Curious was launched in June. This programme is expanding to look at life-long wellness and aligns closely with Department objectives.
- j. IMMA acquired two important works by Brian O'Doherty during the summer.
- k. IMMA's café has re-opened with a new partner, Camerino Bakery. The space has been refurbished and IMMA is delighted to work with a very high-quality operator. The outer vaults will re-open in September.
- l. The works at the North Range are now scheduled to be complete around Easter 2024.

## 6 **IMMA Constitution**

A draft of the new IMMA Constitution was discussed by the Board. The replacement of the old Memorandum and Articles is a requirement of Company Law. The new Constitution updates legal provisions and its provisions are consistent with the Memorandum & Articles that it will replace.

## **7 Research & Learning – Sheena Barrett**

SB joined the meeting and shared a presentation on the work of the Research and Learning Department. There are several exciting areas being developed. The IMMA Horizons programme contributes to new thinking on creativity and lifelong mental well-being with collaborators including MISA St James, and the Global Brain Health Institute.

The Research & Learning strategy aims to activate and promote IMMA as a site for research, working closely with third level institutions. The Talks & Public programme led over 170 events for the summer across the IMMA Campus. The Residency Programme has hosted more than 70 artists, researchers and creative practitioners this year. The schools programme includes Visual Thinking Strategies training for teachers and the Visitor Engagement Team to respond to the changing curriculum at secondary level. There will soon be a new lead person for the range of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives across the site.

## **8 Acquisitions Policy – Christina Kennedy**

CK presented an update on the IMMA Acquisitions Policy. IMMA is charged with managing and developing the National Collection of Modern & Contemporary Art. The Acquisitions Policy aims to purchase in the present and to fill historical gaps. There is a broad range of criteria that inform the discussions around what works to secure for the National Collection, and these criteria are embedded in the policy.

The Board agreed unanimously to approve the Acquisitions Policy.

CK also presented a proposal to purchase a collection of items that have been on long term loan with IMMA. The proposal for the purchase of this collection, known as the Weltkunst Collection of works on paper has been approved in principle by the Collections & Acquisitions Committee. A funding proposal has been sent to the Department. JC, the Chair of the Committee, proposed the approval of this purchase, subject to funds being made available. The Board agreed unanimously.

## **9 Finance, Audit & Risk Committee update - ML**

The FARC met on the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> September. Notes will be circulated by ML.

Two reports were presented to the Committee by the Internal Auditor, on Workforce Management & Development, and on Procurement. Both audits concluded that internal controls are operating in a satisfactory manner.

The Committee reviewed the current status of company policies. The list of policies was found to be comprehensive and adequate. The Committee has asked FM to draw up a policy framework outlining policies, procedures and charters for review at the next meeting.

The committee discussed the current Conflict of Interest Policy. The policy is good and comprehensive, and the Committee plans to discuss the matter of conflicts in detail at its next meeting.

10     **Finance**

The Management Accounts to July 2023 were presented. There have been some areas of overspend on two prominent projects: the Earth Rising event, and the Self-Determination exhibition. Discussions continue with the Department on support for these major initiatives.

11     **Risk Register**

The latest version of the Risk Register was discussed and updates since the last meeting were reviewed.

12     **AOB**

The use of software for Board Meeting papers is to be reviewed again by the executive.

A full day meeting to discuss the implementation of the new Strategy is to be planned before the next Board meeting.

13     **Close**

The next meeting is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

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**Chair**