**Art Committee Minutes**

**Zoom Meeting of 2 May 2022**

**Present:**

Bill Harris (Chair)

Patricia Fara, William Foster, Douglas Hedley, John Guy, Glynnis Maynard, Louis Klee, Jackie Tasioulas.

**Apologies for absence:**

Paul Edwards

1. **Minutes of Art in the Great Hall Meeting**

Douglas Hedley strongly emphasised the historical importance of our portraits and the need to safeguard our College heritage. Most of the big pictures from the Hall are in storage, and they need to be refurbished, which is an expensive project. He expressed his concern at the recommendation that most of the pictures be placed elsewhere, as they show major benefactors and are a traditional tribute that belongs in the Hall. Unfortunately, many of them are inferior copies, but even so the Committee felt it was crucial to conserve them. It was agreed that because of their significance, great attention should be paid to their eventual locations, e.g. Latimer in the Latimer Room. The current plans are to retain only the large portraits on either side of the Lady Clare medallion, to incorporate the one of Eric Ashby and a new one of the present Master, and perhaps to commission another new one for 2026 to go above the fireplace.

1. **Sculpture by Helaine Blumenfeld**

William Foster explained that Blumenfeld is very distinguished, lives locally, and has commissioned a large version of her sculpture in white Carrara marble. It was agreed that this sculpture would fit very well with the 2022 celebrations of women being admitted. However, mainly because of access issues, it seems that Ashby Court would be the best location for it, but the Conference dept. is concerned about the annual ARM conference.

**Action:** William to ask Loretta to contact ARM and explore possibilities.

1. **The framed photos by Julia Hedgecoe.**

They have now all been completed and framed.

1. **The refurbishment of Lady Clare in the Great Hall**

The Committee agreed that her image is a crucial component of the College iconography, and should be fully restored. This will involve removing panels, but can hopefully be done during the current building project and be completed by February when the Hall is scheduled for re-opening.

**Action:** Bill to contact Estates Committee, as this falls within their remit for the refurbishment of the Great Hall as part of the building works.

1. **Yearly budget for refurbishment of college art**

The Committee agreed with the financially advantageous arrangement of a rolling programme for conserving and rehanging at £10K a year for 10 years by Jonthan Miles at a (relatively low) rate of £45 per hour. Although this is not justified on commercial grounds given the suspected value of some of the paintings at auction, these portraits are central to our college history. The strong suggestion made by John and agreed by all is that they should be conserved in the order in which they will be hung.

1. **2022 anniversary**

The College needs to decide on the best way of displaying the Hedgecoe photographs and of foregrounding female achievements.

**Action:** William to take this discussion to the next 2022 committee meeting