

New Governance Arrangements for the William Morris Gallery Cabinet report 3 November 2022

Appendix 2: The Brangwyn Trust

1.1 Under a trust deed dated 31 December 1935 Frank Brangwyn RA gifted certain pictures and works of art to the Mayor Alderman and Burgesses of the Borough of Walthamstow (the predecessor body of Waltham Forest Council).

1.2 The trust deed also states that another donor, Arthur Heygate Mackmurdo intended to gift further art works to the Mayor Alderman and Burgesses of the Borough of Walthamstow, and this did occur at a later date. Mackmurdo was an architect and designer who influenced the Arts and Crafts movement, notably through the Century Guild of Artists and was a pioneer of the Modern Style.

1.3 Under the trust deed Frank Brangwyn's collection becomes part of an Exhibition known as the "William Morris Gallery". The trust deed states that the Exhibition "*shall consist of works of arts given by the Donors*" (Frank Brangwyn and Arthur Heygate Mackmurdo) "*with such other works as may be from time to time offered to and accepted by the Trustees*"- herein referred to as the 'Brangwyn Collection'.

1.4 Under the deed the Exhibition (the 'Brangwyn Collection') is held on trust for purposes set out in the deed. The collections at the William Morris Gallery are now much larger than just the Brangwyn Collection.

1.5 The Brangwyn Trust has not been registered with the Charity Commission.

1.5.1 The Brangwyn Trust deed sets out the appointment of four trustees:

- The Town Clerk Walthamstow Borough Council (now the Chief Executive Officer of Waltham Forest Council)
- Nominee of the Victoria and Albert Museum.
- The third was the local artist Walter Spradbery
- The fourth was the executor of F Brangwyn.

The latter two lines of appointment ceased in the second half of the 20th century. In 2020, an open recruitment of two new trustees was undertaken.

1.6 The four trustees are given certain limited functions under the trust deed: acceptance of other works offered to the Trustees; housing the works of art temporarily to their satisfaction; to make recommendations in all matters connected to the Exhibition; and the safe custody and guardianship of the works of art forming the Exhibition.

1.7 As the owner of the Brangwyn Collection, Waltham Forest Council acts as the Custodian Trustee with the four nominated trustees acting as the Managing Trustees.

1.8 In recent years, the Brangwyn Trustees have continued to act only in an advisory role on matters relating to the collections at the William Morris Gallery, their display and safeguarding, and has not operated as a development or fundraising charity.

1.9 The current Brangwyn Trustees are:

- (a) Martin Esom (ex officio) CEO, Waltham Forest Council
- (b) Anthony Misquitta (V&A nominee)
- (c) Jamie Andrews
- (d) Sba Shaikh

1.10 Under the proposed new arrangements, the new CIO will become the sole trustee of the Brangwyn Trust, retaining the original powers and spirit of the Brangwyn gift.