

**February 2009**

**Iwona Blazwick OBE is appointed a member of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection**

Barbara Follett, the Minister for Culture, announced today that Iwona Blazwick has been appointed as 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Contemporary Art member of the Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection (GAC). Her term of appointment will run from 2 February 2009 to 1 February 2013.

**Biographical notes**

Iwona Blazwick is Director of the Whitechapel Art Gallery (2001 to date) where she is leading a capital campaign towards the £13 million expansion of the Gallery. Prior to this, she was Director of Exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Art before spending spell as an independent curator (1987 to 1993). She then joined the Tate as Art programme curator before becoming Head of Exhibitions and Displays (1997 to 2001). She has served as Commissioning Editor: Contemporary Art at the Phaidon Press. She has undertaken no political activity during the past five years.

**Background**

The Government Art Collection (GAC) is unique in its combination of a wide-ranging and growing collection of British art (over 13,000 works from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day) and their display in Government buildings in the UK and around the world. In so doing, the GAC promotes British art, history and culture to the many thousands of visitors to these buildings, and enhances the working environment. We are committed to ensuring that both historical and contemporary British art are recognized on a national and international level.

The Advisory Committee on the Government Art Collection advises the Secretary of State, via the Director of the GAC, on the acquisition of works of art for the Collection.

GAC Advisory Committee members give their services on an honorary basis. Travel and any other relevant expenses are reimbursed.

This appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.