

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

The Prime Minister has appointed Lady Heseltine and Mr Michael Hintze as Trustees of the National Gallery. Lady Heseltine's term begins on 6 March 2008, and Mr Hintze's on 1 April, for four years in each case.

Biographical details

Lady Heseltine has previously been a Trustee of both the Victoria and Albert Museum (1997-2002), where she also chaired the Development Committee, and the Imperial War Museum (1991-1998). She was on the Board of Visitors for the Ashmolean Museum (1988-2007) and in 1999 she received the Distinguished Friend of Oxford Award from the University of Oxford in recognition of her fundraising; she was also a Fellow of the Museum. She is an adviser to the Oxford Philomusica, and a Trustee of the Burlington Magazine.

Michael Hintze is a businessman and philanthropist whose career in finance took him to the United States with Salomon Brothers, and then London with Credit Suisse First Boston and Goldman Sachs. In 1999 he founded the London-based hedge fund CQS. Mr Hintze has significant and wide-ranging philanthropic interests, establishing the Hintze Family Charitable Foundation with his wife Dorothy in 2004. The fund has helped to finance two galleries at the Victoria and Albert Museum, established the chair of International Security at the University of Sydney, and has provided vital funding to the Old Vic Theatre in London. He is a trustee of the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Prince of Wales's Foundation for the Built Environment, and in 2005 was made a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory by Pope Benedict XVI. He has recently been named 2008 Australian of the Year in the UK by Richard Alston, Australian High Commissioner to the UK.

Background

The National Gallery houses one of the greatest collections of European painting in the world. It contains paintings from the 13th to the early 20th centuries, representing all the major European schools of painting with examples of all the major artists' work. These pictures belong to the public and entrance to see them is free.

The appointment process has followed the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the original Nolan recommendations, there is a requirement for political activity (if any declared) to be made public. Lady Heseltine has declared no political activity. Mr Hintze has declared a recordable donation to the Conservative Party.

The posts are not remunerated. Trustees are appointed by the Prime Minister on the advice of DCMS Ministers.