

September 2009

New Trustees appointed to The Wallace Collection

The Prime Minister has appointed Professor Frances Corner OBE and Denise Lewis as Trustees of the Wallace Collection for the four years beginning 14 September 2009.

Biographical details

Professor Frances Corner OBE is Head of the London College of Fashion, a role she has held since 2005. She had earlier been an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Gloucestershire (1998-2001), and the Head of the Sir John Cass Department of Art, Media and Design at London Metropolitan University (2001-2005). Professor Corner trained as an artist, exhibiting widely, and then curated fine art exhibitions while also teaching foundation, degree and postgraduate courses at Chelsea School of Art and other institutions for three years. She chaired the Council for Higher Education in Art and Design (CHEAD) until July 2009, and is a Governing Board member of the Fashion Retail Academy. As an expert in art and design education, she is a writer and editor of academic studies, an adviser to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the Creative Economy, and a seasoned television interviewee. She holds no other public appointments.

Denise Lewis is currently a consultant in branding, reputation management and strategic communications. From 1997-2003 she held senior roles at Orange plc, initially as Head of Corporate Communications, then Director of Corporate Affairs and ultimately, as the company became a global business, Group Vice President of Corporate Affairs. Among the many communications awards won by Orange during this time, Denise was personally awarded The Financial Times Arts Champion of The Year in 2001. Denise previously worked as Director of Corporate Communications for Bell Canada's UK subsidiary, Encom, which later became Bell Cablemedia plc. She is a Non-Executive Director of Welsh National Opera, a Vice-President of the Hay Literary Festival and a Trustee of The Wessex Youth Trust. She is a Fellow of The Royal Society of Arts and a Lifetime Honorary Member of The British Academy of Film and Television Arts. She holds no other public appointments.

Background

The Wallace Collection is both a national museum and one of the finest collections of art assembled by one family. It was bequeathed to the nation by Lady Wallace in 1897, and opened to the public just over three years later on 22 June 1900. Among its treasures are one of the best collections of French 18th-century pictures, porcelain and furniture in the world; a remarkable array of 17th century paintings; and an armoury. The terms of the Bequest preclude the Trustees from adding to the collection, and from disposing of any of its objects. The Trustees are not remunerated.

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 defined political activity in the past five years (if any declared) to be made public. Neither candidate has declared any political activity.