

March 2010

## **The National Gallery: Appointment of Professor Anya Hurlbert**

The Prime Minister has appointed **Professor Anya Hurlbert** as a Trustee of The National Gallery. Her term of appointment will be four years from 8 March 2010.

Anya Hurlbert is the co-founder and has been the Director of the Institute of Neuroscience at Newcastle University since 2003, and Professor of Visual Neuroscience since 2005. Her research focuses on human visual perception, and has included the study of the interplay between visual neuroscience and art, for example the evolution of JMW Turner's use of colour. She has taught physiology, psychology and neuroscience at universities in Britain and the United States since 1986.

She has presented academic papers in her specialist field at many international conferences, and has contributed to the public understanding of science through lecturing, speaking at symposia, taking part in television programmes, and curating exhibitions. Professor Hurlbert is also a Governor and Director of the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle, a registered charity and has served as a founding Director of Brinkburn Summer Music from 1984-1996. She holds no other public appointments.

### **Background**

1. 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. Its trustees are not remunerated.
2. 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. Professor Hurlbert has declared no political activity in the last five years.