

The National Gallery – Trustee Appointments

The Prime Minister has appointed Charles Sebag-Montefiore and John Singer as Trustees of The National Gallery, for the four years commencing 25 June 2012.

Biographical details

Charles Sebag-Montefiore qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1974. He is currently a director of Ludgate Investments Limited (2004 -), an environmental fund management company, having previously worked at Grieveson Grant & Co and Kleinwort Benson, and other corporate finance advisory companies. He is also a non-executive director of Hightex Group plc. He is Honorary Treasurer of the Friends of the National Libraries, of The Walpole Society, of the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust and of other charities, and was formerly a Trustee of the Samuel Courtauld Trust (1992-2007) and of the Art Fund (2000-11). He is the joint author of *The British as Art Collectors: From the Tudors to the Present* (2012), and his book *A Dynasty of Dealers: John Smith and Successors 1801-1924* (forthcoming 2012) is a study of the art market for pictures in 19th century London. He holds no other public appointments.

John Singer is a partner of Advent International, a global private equity fund, where he has worked since 1993. He stepped down from the Chairmanship in January 2012 to devote his time and experience to helping others achieve their objectives in the arts and education fields. His earlier career included consulting and Board roles at McKinsey & Co Inc, and Central & Sheerwood Plc, together with Board positions in over 30 other companies in the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, France and the United Kingdom. In arts and education he has held non-executive directorships with Rambert Dance and the Mercury Trust, and is currently Chairman of the City of London Sinfonia, and chairs the Advisory Board of the New College of Humanities. He was made an Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, in 2009, and continues to teach at INSEAD, the Fontainebleau-based business school. He holds no other public appointments.

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. Its 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 political activity in the United Kingdom in the past five years (if any declared) to be made public. Mr Sebag-Montefiore has declared no political activity, and Mr Singer has declared a recordable donation to the Conservative Party.