

May 2010

New Tate Trustee

The Prime Minister has appointed Gareth Thomas as a Tate Trustee, for the four years from 1 April 2010.

Biographical Notes

Gareth Thomas trained in law, and then began a 30-year commercial career with the John Lewis Partnership. Its longest-serving board member, he has helped it to win in recent years every major industry award for retailing and customer service. He is currently Retail Director with responsibility for property, design, operations, sales and profit at John Lewis shops, which share a turnover of £3bn annually. He retired early from the John Lewis Partnership in April 2010, and he holds no other public appointments.

He worked in a Non-Executive capacity with the British Heart Foundation from 2003-2006, and since 2006 has been a Trustee and Non-Executive Director of Save the Children (UK). His private passion is British Art from the second half of the 20th century, which dominates a collection he has built up over the last 25 years.

Background

Tate's mission, laid down by the 1992 Museums and Galleries Act, is to increase public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of art. Its responsibilities are safeguarding and enhancing its assets which are the collections, expertise in the collections and subject area, and the buildings. Tate seeks to spread the benefits of those assets by maximising access and developing value for visitors, satisfying stakeholders and through effective organisation and sound financial management. Tate 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 Thomas has declared no political activity.