



PUBLIC
CATALOGUE
FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS AS PCF GEARS UP FOR DIGITAL FUTURE

The Public Catalogue Foundation (PCF) today announced the appointment of Charles Gregson, Chairman of ICAP, as its new Chairman.

In addition, two new Trustees have joined the Board: Alex Morrison, Managing Director and Founder of Cogapp, and Marc Sands, Director of Audiences and Media at Tate. These changes follow the retirement of PCF Founder, Dr Fred Hohler, as Chairman, and Dr Alan Borg and John van Kuffeler as Trustees.

The PCF now plans to focus on online publishing following the successful summer launch with the BBC of Your Paintings. This website has already revolutionized access to the nation's public collection of some 200,000 oil paintings.

However, the PCF's widely admired printed catalogues will continue to be published in a separate division under the direction of Fred Hohler, who becomes an Honorary Trustee.

Fred Hohler said: "Your Paintings offers the PCF a brilliant future none of us could have envisaged when we started out eight years ago. I am delighted to be passing on the baton now to Charles Gregson. He is a good personal friend as well as being a Founding Trustee. More than that, though, he has both the experience and the expertise needed to drive the PCF forward at this key strategic moment."

Charles Gregson said: "The Public Catalogue Foundation owes its existence to the dedication and vision of Fred Hohler. His inspirational leadership has led to the creation of a unique resource for this country – comprehensive knowledge of the scale and quality of its own national collection of oil paintings. We owe a debt of thanks to him and his fellow Founders of the PCF, especially Dr Alan Borg and Kate Trevelyan, who have given so generously of their time and expertise. I am delighted that Fred, Alan and Kate have agreed to become Honorary Trustees of the PCF."

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Notes to Editors

About the Public Catalogue Foundation

The Public Catalogue Foundation is a registered charity. It was launched in 2003 to create a photographic record of all the oil paintings in public ownership in the United Kingdom. It was founded by Dr Fred Hohler in the previous year.

In total, some 50 researchers will have helped the project to identify the collections and collate the data behind the paintings across the UK. Over 30 fine art photographers have been employed to take the photographs over the life of the project. A number of volunteers have also generously given their time to the project. London-based staff and freelancers focus on processing and editing the data that comes in from the field, fundraising and clearing copyright.

Reflecting the refocusing of operations, the PCF's work to digitize oil paintings across the country and publish these online through the BBC Your Paintings website will now reside in the Online Division alongside the operation of Your Paintings Tagger and PCF Prints. The Printed Catalogue Division will focus on converting the record of digitized paintings into printed catalogues and then selling these books. This division will be responsible for its own fundraising and revenue generation.

The Board of Trustees

Charles Gregson (Chairman)

Robert Hiscox (Chairman of Hiscox plc)

Menna McGregor (Clerk to the Mercers' Company)

Alex Morrison (Managing Director of Cogapp)

Ricky Roundell (Vice Chairman of Christie's UK)

Marc Sands (Director of Audiences and Media, Tate)

Charles Saumarez Smith (Chief Executive of the Royal Academy)

Graham Southern (Founding partner of Blain Southern)

Alison Watt (Artist)

Director

Andrew Ellis

For more information go to www.thepcf.org.uk