

The Courtauld

Appointment of

Board Members

January 2025 | Ref EBQQB





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Introduction

The Courtauld is an internationally renowned centre for the teaching and research of art history and a major public gallery that works to advance how we see and understand the visual arts. Founded by collectors and philanthropists in the 1930s, the organisation has been at the forefront of the study of art ever since, through advanced research and conservation practice, innovative teaching, a renowned collection, inspiring exhibitions, and engaging and accessible activities, education, and events.

Academically, The Courtauld faculty is the largest community of art historians and conservators in the UK, teaching and carrying out research on subjects from creativity in late Antiquity to contemporary digital art forms – with an increasingly global focus. An independent college of the University of London, The Courtauld offers a range of degree programmes from BA to PhD in the History of Art, curating, and the conservation of easel and wall paintings. Its alumni are leaders and innovators in the arts, culture and business worlds, helping to shape the global agenda for the arts and creative industries.

The Courtauld cares for one of the greatest art collections in the UK, sharing these works with the public at The Courtauld Gallery in central London, as well as through loans and partnerships. The Gallery is most famous for its iconic Impressionist and Post- Impressionist masterpieces – such as Van Gogh's Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear and Manet's A Bar at the Folies-Bergère. It showcases these paintings alongside an internationally renowned collection of works from the Renaissance through to the present day.

Founded on the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to engage with art, The Courtauld works to increase understanding of the role played by art throughout history, in all societies, and across all geographies – as well as being a champion for the importance of art in the present day. This could be through exhibitions offering a chance to look closely at world-famous works, accessible and expert short courses, events bringing art-historical research to new audiences, digital engagement, innovative school, family, and community programmes, or taking a formal qualification. The Courtauld's ambition is to transform access to art history education by extending the horizons of what this is and ensuring as many people as possible can benefit from the tools to better understand the visual world around us.





Our Vision

Our vision is to become the world's most ambitious, dynamic and innovative centre for the visual arts.

More specifically, we aim to become:

A unique place of learning, where students have the opportunity to benefit from an unrivalled range and depth of teaching in the history, conservation, curation and business of art.

Britain's leading public advocate for the study of the visual arts, and for the importance of such knowledge to a thriving culture, economy and society.

A thriving hub of individual and collaborative research, generating the world's most original and rigorous new thinking on the visual arts.

A global pioneer in the digital sphere, opening up the study of art to an international audience through innovative and accessible forms of online provision.

An extraordinary art gallery offering a distinctive curatorial programme and one of the UK's most satisfying visitor experiences.

An institution that offers an exemplary model of inclusion, openness and accessibility, and that lives up to our founder Samuel Courtauld's vision of 'art for all'.

Mission and History

The Courtauld's mission is to advance the understanding of the visual arts of past and present across the world, through pioneering research, innovative teaching and inspiring exhibitions, and through the sensitive stewardship of our internationally renowned collection.

Founded by collectors and philanthropists in 1932, the Courtauld has been at the forefront of developing the field of art history ever since. A research-led higher education institution, we are home to the largest community of art historians and conservators in the UK. More than 40 faculty teach and carry out research on subjects ranging from early medieval art to contemporary digital art, with an increasingly global focus.

An independent college of the University of London, and awarding University of London degrees, we offer a range of degree programmes from BA to PhD in History of Art, Conservation and Curating, drawing on the resources of our world-famous Courtauld Gallery and art collection. We currently have more than 600 students, and our alumni are leaders and innovators in the arts, culture and business worlds, helping to shape the global agenda for the arts and creative industries.

The Courtauld Gallery is also home to one of the finest art collections in the UK. Comprising paintings, works on paper and decorative arts, the collection is especially renowned for its Impressionist masterpieces. It is owned by the Samuel Courtauld Trust. The Courtauld works closely with the Trust to advance the stewardship, development and wide public enjoyment of the collection.

Based since 1989 at London's Somerset House, we are in the midst of a major renovation and redevelopment project. The first stage of this project was completed in 2021, with the opening of the new Courtauld Gallery, café, shop and Learning Centre, and the construction of the West Wing Conservation Studios. The second phase of the project, which involves the transformation of the Courtauld's teaching premises and the creation of new premises for the institution's academic and professional staff, is due to be completed in 2027-28. In the meantime, most of The Courtauld's History of Art and Curating teaching takes place at our temporary campus at Vernon Square, with the Conservation teaching programme largely based at Somerset House.





Our Board

The Courtauld's Governing Board promotes the long-term success of The Courtauld and ensures that its charitable aims and regulatory obligations are met. The Governing Board sets strategy, risk appetite and priorities for The Courtauld and approves the operating and financial plans to achieve target strategic outcomes on the recommendation of management.

Appointed Board Members:

Up to 12 persons appointed by the Governing Board who are not members of Staff or Students:

The Lord Browne of Madingley (Chair)

Professor Julia Black CBE FBA

Sir Leszek Borysiewicz

Peter Budd

Charmian Caines

Neil Chugani

Sir Gabriele Finaldi

James Freedman

Hugh Langmuir

Hugues Lepic

Sally Osman

The Lord Petitgas

Ex Officio Board Members:

Märit Rausing Director: Professor Mark Hallett

President of The J. Paul Getty Trust or nominee: Katherine E. Fleming/Dr Mary Miller

Chair, Samuel Courtauld Trust: Andrew Hochhauser KC

President, Students' Union: Prune Engérant

Elected Board Members:

Professor Jo Applin

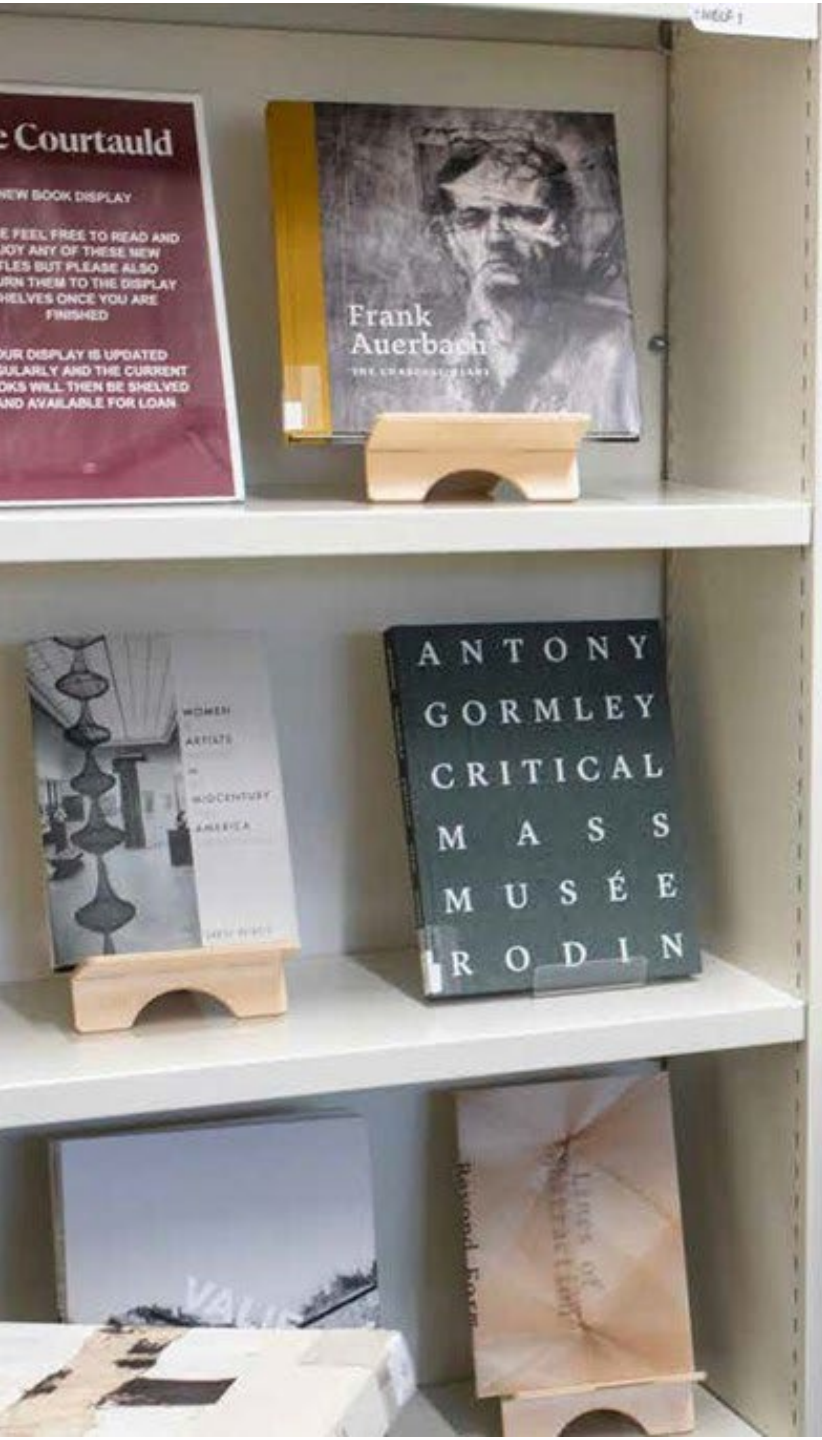
Chrissy Baker

Dr Alexandra Gernstein

Dr Stephen Whiteman

Secretary to the Governing Board: Alison Kennell

To learn more about the Board and see biographies of members, please follow this [link](#)



The Role

The Courtauld is seeking passionate individuals to join its Governing Board. As a Board Member, you will play a vital role in shaping the institution's future, ensuring its continued excellence in art education, conservation, and research.

It is expected that Board Members will:

- Ensure The Courtauld's mission and activities stay aligned with its charitable objectives, supporting education, research, and conservation at the highest level;
- Shape and review strategic goals, setting clear priorities and monitoring performance;
- Protect and manage financial resources responsibly, ensuring funds are used to further The Courtauld's goals;
- Participate actively in Board meetings, bringing expertise, insight, and energy to all decision-making processes;
- Support oversight, including reviewing budgets, reports, and key performance indicators;
- Ensure compliance with charity law, ethical standards, and best governance practices; and
- Foster a culture of collaboration and excellence, working with fellow trustees and senior leadership to keep The Courtauld at the forefront of the arts sector.



Person Specification

We are seeking candidates who share a passion and commitment to the arts and who can contribute to realising our vision.

We are particularly interested in candidates with one of the following profiles:

- Experienced museum or gallery leaders from public-facing institutions, offering expertise in strategic leadership, knowledge of collections and audience engagement.
- Established visual artists who are able to bring fresh creative insight to governance and decision-making.

The Board is also open to hearing from senior leaders, who are able to demonstrate strong executive leadership and governance experience, bringing strategic insight, robust decision-making skills, and a deep commitment to the arts.

Candidates for these roles will ideally bring:

- A strong commitment to The Courtauld and its mission of advancing the understanding and enjoyment of visual art through education, research, and public engagement;
- A willingness to dedicate time, energy, and expertise to support The Courtauld's governance and strategic direction;
- Experience in shaping and implementing strategic visions, ideally within the arts, education, or cultural sectors;

- The ability to think creatively and contribute innovative ideas that support The Courtauld's ambitions;
- An understanding of charity and company law, with a willingness to accept the legal duties, responsibilities, and liabilities associated with trusteeship;
- A passion for visual arts, art history, and higher education, with a commitment to supporting The Courtauld's role as a leading institution in these fields;
- A willingness to act as an ambassador for The Courtauld, fostering connections with external stakeholders and advocating for its work; and
- Adherence to the Nolan Committee's Seven Principles of Public Life
 - Selflessness
 - Integrity
 - Objectivity
 - Accountability
 - Openness
 - Honesty
 - Leadership
- We welcome applications from candidates of all backgrounds and are committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse workforce. We strongly encourage individuals from all communities, including underrepresented groups to apply, as we believe that a variety of perspectives enriches our organisation and strengthens our ability to achieve our goals.







Terms of Appointment

- Successful candidates will be appointed for an initial term of four years, with the possibility for renewal for a further four-year term. Appointments will commence from 1 August 2025. The role is unremunerated, but reasonable travel expenses may be claimed.
- The Governing Board usually meets four times per year, with all meetings held in person, usually at our Vernon Square Campus in London. The appointed members may be asked to join a committee or working group of the Board; committees usually meet three or four times per year.
- Board members are expected to prepare for and attend all meetings. In addition, Board members are invited to support The Courtauld through attendance at a wide range of Gallery and other events and the annual Graduation ceremony.
- Appointments are subject to references and other disclosures, including those relating to 'fit and proper person' requirements.



How to Apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an agency advisor to The Courtauld on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at www.saxbam.com/appointments using code EBQQB

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on Monday 17th February 2025

*The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

GDPR personal data notice

According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent. You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.



Saxton Bampfylde