

New Chair of Trustees Federation of British Artists at Mall Galleries A visual arts charity since 1961



Press Release

Thursday 5th October 2023

New Chair of Trustees

The Federation of British Artists at Mall Galleries is delighted to announce the appointment of Jane Ellison as new chair of trustees, to replace Jonathan Glasspool who is standing down after six years in the role. Jane Ellison, a former BBC executive, now advises arts, heritage and higher education organisations on public engagement, story-telling and communications. Jane is a trustee of the Foyle Foundation, holds advisory roles on the Arts and Humanities Research Council and at Transparency International UK. She is an associate of the Imperial War Museum Institute and former trustee of Libraries Connected amongst other positions. Jane ended her career at the BBC as Head of Creative Partnerships during which she convened and chaired 'World War 1' on the BBC.



Image: Jane Ellison, new Chair of trustees FBA

Richard Rees, President of The Pastel Society, FBA trustee and Chair of the nominations committee said:

'We're very pleased to welcome Jane who impressed the Board with her in-depth understanding of cultural institutions, charitable governance and enthusiasm for the visual arts. She will join the FBA at a key time in our development as we move away from the after-effects of the pandemic and begin to look to the future of the Mall Galleries and the potential the digital world offers artists and consumers.'

Clare O'Brien, CEO FBA said:

'I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jonathan Glasspool for his outstanding work as Chair for the past six years. He has inspired an interrogation of our ways of working, moved the organisation forward digitally and guided us through the turbulence the pandemic brought. He has seen the charity emerge stronger and more resilient.'

We are looking forward to working with Jane and realising a new and evolving vision for the FBA.'

New Chair Jane Ellison said:

'It is an honour to take the Chair of the FBA. The Federation's programme of public exhibitions at Mall Galleries showcases the work of hundreds of artists, inviting us all to enjoy the vibrancy and richness of figurative art in Britain today, and providing a platform for young artists at the start of their careers. I look forward to working with fellow trustees, the enthusiastic and dedicated Mall Galleries team and all the FBA's member societies to build on a unique legacy and explore new opportunities to support the talent and creativity of artists in the future.'

Outgoing Chair Jonathan Glasspool, said:

'I am pleased to leave the FBA at this positive point and on a strong footing. There will always be a need to support living figurative artists, providing them with a platform to show their work. I'd like to thank Clare and the team at the gallery for their magnificent work during the pandemic, their unflagging enthusiasm and goodwill, and the considerable efforts they've made to modernise the gallery and its operation since I joined.'

I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their support and commitment to this charity and I am delighted that the Board has chosen such an able successor in Jane.'

About the Federation of British Artists at Mall Galleries:

Mall Galleries empowers artists through a not-for-profit programme of exhibitions and events, prizes and awards, with a focus on figurative art. Managed by the Federation of British Artists, a visual arts charity founded in 1961, Mall Galleries offers learning and engagement opportunities for everyone.

The Federation comprises nine national art societies, each specialising in figurative art. All of the societies host their annual exhibitions at Mall Galleries, which are regarded as flagships for the art forms they champion. The art societies are as follows:

- The Royal Society of British Artists
- The Royal Society of Portrait Painters
- The Royal Institute of Oil Painters
- The Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours
- The Royal Society of Marine Artists
- The New English Art Club
- The Pastel Society
- The Society of Wildlife Artists
- The Hesketh Hubbard Art Society

Vision: Leader in contemporary figurative art, led by artists, for all.

Mission: Mall Galleries empowers artists through a not-for-profit programme of exhibitions and events, prizes and awards, with a focus on figurative art.

To find out more about the Federation of British Artists | Mall Galleries, please visit:

<https://www.mallgalleries.org.uk/about-us>

For press enquiries, please contact press@mallgalleries.com