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## **NEW SECRETARY & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS ANNOUNCED**

Charles Saumarez Smith has been appointed the new Secretary and Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Arts it was announced today. He will take up his new post in the autumn.

The General Assembly endorsed the appointment by acclamation at a meeting this afternoon and Her Majesty the Queen has signified her approval. The new appointment has the full support of the Trustees of the Royal Academy Trust.

MaryAnne Stevens, the Acting Secretary of the Royal Academy for the past two years, who chose not to apply for the post, will continue to play a pivotal role in the academic and curatorial areas of the Royal Academy.

Sir Nicholas Grimshaw, President of the Royal Academy said:

“The Academy has been working hard on Governance issues over the last two years. We now have a clear structure with the Secretary and Chief Executive’s role well defined. We felt it was the right time to search for a candidate and we are absolutely delighted that Charles Saumarez Smith has accepted. He comes with a wealth of experience which will be particularly valuable to us, both on the development of our buildings and on our future exhibition programme”.

Charles Saumarez Smith said:

“After thirteen years running two major national galleries, I am looking forward to working closely with the President and the Council of the Royal Academy, as well as with the community of contemporary artists, architects and sculptors which the Royal Academicians represent. The National Gallery and the Royal Academy have had long associations, having shared the same building in Trafalgar Square in the nineteenth century, although one is now state funded and the other a successful, independent institution. An obvious challenge is to ensure that the Royal Academy’s programme of major international exhibitions is sustained, as well as to create a twenty-first century vision for this outstanding centre for art in the heart of London”.

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## **Notes to Editors:**

### **Charles Saumarez Smith**

Charles Saumarez Smith was born in 1954. He was educated at King's College, Cambridge, where he was a scholar and gained a double first in history and history of art.

After graduating, he spent a year at Harvard University as a Henry Fellow studying at the Fogg Art Museum. He then returned to the Warburg Institute and in 1986 was awarded a PhD on the architecture of Castle Howard.

In 1979, he was elected Christie's Research Fellow at Christ's College, Cambridge, and in 1982 he joined the staff of the Victoria and Albert Museum as an Assistant Keeper with special responsibility for the V&A/RCA MA in the History of Design.

In 1990, he was appointed Head of Research at the Victoria and Albert Museum. From 1994 to 2002 he was director of the National Portrait Gallery before being appointed Director of the National Gallery in 2002.

He has also undertaken training at the Museum Management Institute, Berkeley, California and on the Senior Executive Programme at the London Business School.

### **Appointment process**

Following an advertisement for the above post on 14 January 2007, the Council of the Royal Academy of Arts considered a long-list of 51 candidates. Interviews of 7 outstanding short-listed candidates were held on 13 and 14 March. The interview panel consisted of 10 members of Council and 2 Trustees of the Royal Academy Trust.