Press Release
27 September 2010

ICA

The ICA, Institute of Contemporary Arts, today announced that Alison Myners has been appointed Chair of the ICA Council and will take up the position from October 2010.

As Chair of the Contemporary Art Society for 4 years, Alison Myners oversaw a period of increased public profile for the organisation, bringing in new membership support at all levels, stronger recurrent revenues and the introduction of modern governance structures. She is an Emeritus Trustee of the Royal Academy of Arts Trust, sits on the RA Schools Committee where she was previously Chair of Patrons, and was a member of the Board that reviewed the Governance of the Royal Academy. She sits on the Advisory Board for Prix Pictet, and set up and chaired the Corporate Development Board of Women's Aid, a charity tackling domestic violence against women and children. She also chaired events for Action on Addiction.

Alison Myners joins the ICA at the end of a thorough organisational review, led by Executive Director Ekow Eshun, which has now placed the institute on a more secure footing following a period of considerable financial pressure. With a strong autumn programme in place and a new five-year business plan delivered the ICA is well placed artistically, financially and organisationally to meet new challenges and thrive into the future.

Welcoming the appointment Alan Yentob, outgoing ICA Chairman, said: '*The Council warmly welcomes the appointment of Alison Myners. As well as manifestly being an individual of the highest calibre, her wide experience in arts and business as well her passion and support for the new in contemporary art will be of immense value to the Council. We look forward to working closely with her.*'

As Chair, Alison Myners' initial priorities will include leading the next phase of organisational renewal for the ICA and, following the resignation of Ekow Eshun in August, the appointment of a new Executive Director.

She has a passion for the visual arts and as Chair of the Academy Schools' Patrons, initiated a hardship fund to support young artists as they studied, enabling them to focus on developing their work. Alison is also a keen collector of the work of new artists. She is married to Paul Myners with whom she has a son and daughter and three stepdaughters. They have a residence in Mawnan Smith, Cornwall.

Alison Myners said of her appointment: '*I'm delighted to be taking on the role of Chair of the ICA at a time when it has demonstrated such commitment to regeneration and renewal. The ICA plays a crucial role in the arts landscape, supporting and presenting emerging artists. I look forward to taking this unique organisation into a new exciting phase, building on it's history of bringing together audiences and artists, new talent and new ideas.*'

Moira Sinclair, Executive Director, Arts Council England, London said: '*Alison is a very experienced Chair with a track record of support for, and knowledge of, contemporary art practice. We look forward to working with her as the ICA embarks on this new chapter of its development.*'

Mark Stephens, Chairman of the Contemporary Art Society said: '*Alison Myners was an inspirational Chair of the Contemporary Society. The ICA is to be congratulated on such a wonderful appointment. Alison Myners will undoubtedly make the same invaluable contribution to the work of the ICA and we at CAS look forward through Alison to closer relationships between CAS & ICA given her unique understanding of the two organisations.*'

For further press information please contact
Margred Pryce
ICA Head of Communications
Tel: 020 7766 1410
Mobile: 07778 291273
Email: margred.pryce@ica.org.uk

Notes to Editors

Alan Yentob
Alan Yentob remains one of the key figures in British television, a celebrated and award winning programme maker, committed for over 30 years to supporting the latest developments in arts and culture. Creative Director for the BBC, he has been Chair of the ICA Council since 2002.

Tim Marlow
Tim Marlow is a writer, broadcaster and art historian. He is Director of Exhibitions at White Cube in London and a member of the ICA Council. Tim Marlow chaired the Nominations Committee for the new Chair on behalf of the ICA Council.

Current ICA programme
Using Russian collective Chto delat? as a point of departure, the ICA is currently presenting Dissent, a season of projects on art, activism and social change and investigating culture as a site for protest in a time of economic crisis. In November, we celebrate an important moment for emerging art practice with the return to the ICA of the Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2010. This is an opportunity to engage with new ideas from across the UK as the ICA comes alive with the work of 49 new and emerging artists.

About the ICA
The ICA, Institute of Contemporary Arts, is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary arts centre established in 1947 by a collective of artists, poets and writers to showcase and champion contemporary culture across the broadest range of art forms. Housing two galleries, two cinemas, a theatre, reading room, bookshop and café/bar, the ICA has been at the forefront of cultural experiment since its formation and has presented some of the most radical exhibitions, artists, films, music and thought to have shaped our world. It exists today as a committed proponent of contemporary arts practice and new ideas, presenting an international and contextualised programme of work in new and experimental frameworks across a variety of platforms. Entrance to galleries, bookshop, café and bar events is free of charge before 11pm.

The Institute of Contemporary Arts is a registered charity in England No 236848

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