



Royal College of Art

Postgraduate Art & Design

BIOGRAPHIES

Of principal non-executives and executives

Dr Paul Thompson, Vice-Chancellor, Royal College of Art

Dr Paul Thompson is a leading authority on art and design having worked at the intersection of culture and education for three decades. Throughout his leadership of three international institutions – the Royal College of Art, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York, and the UK's Design Museum – he has championed the best of design and fostered a positive environment for artists and innovators to flourish.

Dr Thompson has been Vice-Chancellor of the Royal College of Art, the internationally renowned art and design postgraduate university, since 2009. He has instigated strategic shifts in the academic vision of the institution, most notably, introducing scientific members of faculty (in computer science, materials science, and robotics) alongside the 'traditional' craft-based practitioners in glass, ceramics, print and painting. New programmes in Environmental Architecture and City Design have led to a substantial expansion of the School of Architecture, while new partnerships with universities in Singapore, the US, Japan and China have 'internationalised' the School of Design. A significant investment programme will secure the RCA's future academic vision as well as a new state-of-the art building at Battersea, designed by Herzog de Meuron, which will deliver new studios, workshops, research centres, and incubator units for business innovation.

Prior to the RCA, Dr Thompson was Director of the Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York (2001–9). Here, he expanded nationwide education services, instigated the 'Design for the Other 90%' research programme, and appointed the world's first museum curator of socially responsible design. As Director of the Design Museum in London (1993–2001), Dr Thompson was responsible for increasing the museum's sustainability and popularity with audiences. Through exhibitions such as Charlotte Perriand: Modernist Pioneer and Modern Britain 1929–1939, the museum increased visitor numbers and won critical, scholarly acclaim. Prior to becoming Director, Dr Thompson was Curator of Contemporary Design and then Chief Curator.

Dr Thompson is a Trustee of the Victoria and Albert Museum; Board Member of Universities UK and Chair of Universities UK's Specialists Institutions Forum; Board Member of Creative UK and Chair of the Creative UK Creative Education & Careers Working Group; Adjunct Professor at the Institute for Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London; Executive Committee Member of SHAPE (Social Sciences, Humanities & the Arts for People and the Economy); and served on the Ashmolean Museum's governing body at the University of Oxford from 2012-2018. He completed a PhD in Modern European Thought at the University of East Anglia in 1987.

Non-Executive Leaders

Sir Jony Ive KBE, Chancellor, Royal College of Art

Sir Jony Ive KBE is a designer.

He joined Apple in 1992. As chief design officer, Jony was responsible for all hardware, user interface and packaging design, as well as the major architectural projects Apple Park and Apple retail stores. He led the design team for more than two decades, creating the iMac, PowerBook, MacBook, iBook, iPod, iPhone, iPad, AppleWatch, AirPods and HomePod.

Co-founder Steve Jobs referred to Jony as his creative partner.

He holds more than 14,000 patents worldwide, uniquely spanning both software and hardware design.

Born in London, Jony studied industrial design at college. He was appointed a Royal Designer for Industry (RDI) in 2003, an honorary fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (HonFREng) in 2006. Jony was awarded the RSA's Benjamin Franklin Medal in 2004 and the Professor Stephen Hawking Fellowship by the Cambridge Union Society in 2018. He holds honorary doctorates from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Rhode Island School of Design and the Royal College of Art, where he currently serves as chancellor.

In 2019, Jony and long-time friend and collaborator Marc Newson gathered the creative collective LoveFrom, which includes Airbnb, Apple and Ferrari amongst its first collaborators. Jony is frequently voted one of Britain's most culturally influential figures.

Sir Peter Bazalgette , Pro-Chancellor, Royal College of Art

Sir Peter has spent a lifetime in television where he's been a news journalist, a documentary maker, a creator of entertainment formats and an independent producer at Endemol. In 2012 he was knighted for services to broadcasting. He also served as President of the Royal Television Society and on the boards of DCMS and Channel 4. He took a lead on broadcasting policy which led him into championing the Creative Industries in general.

In the field of the arts, as well as his time as Chair of Arts Council England, Sir Peter chaired a steam museum, English National Opera, and currently heads the non-fiction book prize, the Baillie Gifford. He's also the author of *The Empathy Instinct*, which explores the positive role of the arts in society. In September 2017 he published the *Independent Review of the Creative Industries*. He was commissioned by the UK government to put forward proposals for a sector deal in the Industrial Strategy green paper.

In terms of higher education, Sir Peter is a former non-executive at UKRI (UK Research & Innovation). He's been working closely with the AHRC (Arts & Humanities Research Council) as it develops its links with the Creative Industries. He also served as Deputy Chair of the National Film & TV School, another graduate college. More recently he's become a founder member of SHAPE, the campaign promoting the value of arts & humanities. He is Hon Professor of the Creative Industries at Manchester University.

Principal academic and executive leaders

Professor Naren Barfield, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost

Professor Naren Barfield is Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost at the Royal College of Art. He has held a number of senior leadership positions in UK higher education and has contributed to the strategic development, support, leadership and assessment of research, knowledge exchange, innovation, and postgraduate research and taught programmes across the arts and humanities, both nationally and internationally.

Since 2011 he has worked at the Royal College of Art, and has led significant growth in postgraduate

programmes, student enrolments, research intensity and quality, industry partnerships, executive education, and internationalisation. He was a member of RAE2008 Sub-panel 63, REF2014 Sub-panel 34, and AHRC Peer Review Panel 2: Visual Arts and Media (2005-8), is a member of the V&A Research Institute Steering Committee (VARI), a graduate of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education Top Management Programme (TMP18), and has been appointed as a Council Member for Research England.

Internationally, Professor Barfield has been appointed to the Working Group on Models for the Assessment of Higher Art Education Institutions by the European League of Institutes of the Arts (2018), and is an advisor and assessor on research in China, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand, and has led international partnership agreements with universities in China, Japan, Singapore and the US.

Professor Paul Anderson, Dean of the School of Design, Royal College of Art

Professor Anderson is Dean of the School of Design at the Royal College of Art and received his MA in Industrial Design from the Royal College of Art in 1986. He joined Glasgow School of Art in 1993 where he launched the Digital Design Studio (DDS) and developed an international profile in research into fundamental human computer interface issues associated with 3D interfaces, haptics, 3D sound and gesture-based interaction supporting real-time 3D visualisation. He has served as an on-call consultant to government agencies, and is an active member of SPIE and ACM SIGGRAPH. Cultural and academic affiliations include Fellowships of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce and the Royal Geographical Society.

Kerry Curtis, Dean of the School of Communication, Royal College of Art

Kerry has extensive leadership experience in higher education. Prior to joining the RCA in April 2021, she was Head of Bath School of Design at Bath Spa University, leading teaching and curriculum innovation in disciplines both within and beyond the School of Communication's portfolio. Kerry's student-centred strategies ensure that students are challenged and supported in their practice and can thrive within a collaborative community of artists, communicators, designers and researchers. During Kerry's RCA 1997 graduation show in MA Textiles, she was appointed as the new textile designer for Alberta Ferretti and subsequently worked in-house for Valentino and Nina Ricci. Kerry has a wealth of industry experience delivering high-profile collaborations with the British Council, Indian Design Council and through the development of textiles for brands such as Chloé, Stella McCartney, Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Givenchy, Dolce & Gabbana, Lanvin and Fendi. Kerry has also created work for music videos, illustration, styling and exhibition curation. Kerry's current research focuses on design approaches to disaster responses, with experience of working on participatory scenarios related to climate change in her project Imagining Neutopia, which fabricates and documents fictional events to further Climate Change discourse.

Dr Adrian Lahoud, Dean of the School of Architecture, Royal College of Art

Prior to his current role at the RCA, Dr Adrian Lahoud was director of the MA programme at the Centre for Research Architecture, Goldsmiths and a research fellow in the Forensic Architecture ERC-funded project; studio master in the Projective Cities MPhil in Architecture and Urban Design at the Architectural Association; and director of the MArch Urban Design at the Bartlett, University College London. Dr Lahoud's research explores the idea of scale within architecture and urban design especially with regards to climatic and environmental transformations. His work has been widely published and he lectures internationally, more recently at the Princeton School of Architecture, Columbia University, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Tate Britain and Haus der Kulturen der Welt.

Professor Ken Neil, Dean of the School of Arts & Humanities, Royal College of Art

Ken has over two decades of teaching experience in higher education and previously held senior academic posts at The Glasgow School of Art. Ken studied painting and the story and Philosophy of Art at Edinburgh University, before achieving an MFA in Painting from Edinburgh College of Art in 1995. He completed a PhD in art theory in 2003. Ken has written extensively on contemporary art and theory, and is currently on the editorial board of the Journal of Visual Art Practice. His research and writing relate to three fields: contemporary art and art theory; issues for creative education; and the visual culture of the everyday.