

The Big Draw Press Release

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The Campaign for Drawing T/A The Big Draw is a registered charity, no. 1114811; company no.5763509

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 26 AUGUST 2021

The Big Draw announces New Chair of The Board of Trustees

John Stachiewicz, publisher and arts and heritage consultant, has been announced as the new Chair of visual literacy charity, The Big Draw, founder of the global, year-long festival celebrating the universal language of drawing. John takes over his tenure as Chair from David Graham who has led in this role for the last two years.

Commenting on his recent appointment, John Stachiewicz said: "I am delighted to be joining The Big Draw as Chair of its board of trustees and to be able to support the inspiring work of its director, Kate Mason, her talented team and my fellow trustees. The Big Draw is an extraordinary charity which does so much to promote drawing as a means to develop creativity, social engagement and self-confidence, reaching hundreds of thousands of people every year both through its annual festival and its regular work. During these challenging times, millions of people are discovering or rediscovering the well-being that drawing can bring, and I look forward to helping the charity blossom further in the time ahead. I'd like to thank David Graham for his good-natured, unflappable and strong leadership of The Big Draw."

David Graham, commenting on his successor, said: "It has been an enormous pleasure and a great privilege to serve as Chair of The Big Draw and, whilst I am sad to be stepping down, I am delighted that the board of Trustees share my enthusiasm for my successor, John Stachiewicz. John's knowledge of the Art World and his many contacts through his work at Tate Publishing and his sure-footed stewardship at The Association for Cultural Enterprises will be a great asset to the charity. I look forward to seeing the Big Draw flourish under his assured and experienced guidance."

John Stachiewicz has worked in the publishing, arts and heritage sector for forty years, initially in international books publishing for Transworld and HarperCollins before moving to The National Trust and then the Tate Gallery. He was Chair of the board of trustees of the Association for Cultural Enterprises, and in addition to his independent consultancy, he is a board member of The Hepworth Wakefield Enterprises and of Pavilion Books.

Director of The Big Draw Kate Mason said: "The Big Draw is extremely grateful for all of the work David Graham has put in for us over the last two years. With 2020 bringing a time that could not have been foreseen, David has helped steer the charity through some challenging times with humour and kindness.

Succeeding David, it is wonderful to welcome John Stachiewicz as our new Chair of the Board of Trustees. With his life-long career in the arts and heritage sector, John brings a wealth of experience to the Board and we are very excited to have him join us."

To find out more about the work of The Big Draw and The John Ruskin Prize, organised by The Big Draw, visit thebigdraw.org and ruskinprize.co.uk.

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#MaketheChange #BDF2021 #TheBigDraw

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Big Draw

The Big Draw is a visual literacy charity promoting the universal language of drawing as a tool for thought, creativity, social and cultural engagement. The Big Draw (formerly The Campaign for Drawing) was launched in 2000 with support from and spearheaded by The Guild of St George, the charity founded by John Ruskin in 1871 - becoming an independent arts education charity in 2006.

The charity leads a diverse programme of advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival – the world’s biggest celebration of drawing. The Big Draw manages collaborative research projects, campaigns and educational conferences on visual literacy, digital technology and STEAM. The charity supports professional and emerging artists through its national contemporary art prize, The John Ruskin Prize and exhibition, and through events, awards, and competitions, creates platforms for anyone who wants to draw.

www.thebigdraw.org | Charity no. 1114811

The Big Draw Festival

Launched in October 2000, The Big Draw Festival has encouraged over five million people back to the drawing board. It has notched up two world records – for the longest drawing in the world (one kilometre) and the greatest number of people drawing simultaneously (over 7,000). The first Big Draw Festival in 2000 attracted 180 partner organisations. Since then, the number has risen to over 1,000, with over 500,000 people participating each year. What began as a one-day celebration of drawing in October 2000 in the UK, is now a year-long festival of drawing across the world.

The Big Draw Shop

The Big Draw Shop is the online shop from The Big Draw. Packed with art books, prints, sketchbooks and more, it is your one stop for art lovers, print collectors and stationary addicts. Highlights include Russell Walker prints, limited edition Ruskin Prize works, beautiful sketchbooks by Lightship Print and t-shirts and tote bags from The Big Draw Festival celebrations past and present.

www.bigdrawshop.co.uk

The John Ruskin Prize

The John Ruskin Prize was initiated in 2012 by The Big Draw in partnership with the Guild of St George. The Prize is the fastest growing multi-disciplinary arts and crafts prize in the UK. With the values of the radical polymath John Ruskin at its core, the #RuskinPrize has a growing representation for supporting and promoting artists, designers and makers whose work defies easy categorisation.

www.ruskinprize.co.uk