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News release

The Glasgow School of Art announces new Chairman of the Board of Governors

The Glasgow School of Art is pleased to announce the appointment of Philip Rodney, Partner and Chairman of Burness Solicitors, as the new Chairman of its Board of Governors. He will succeed leading international businessman Professor Nick Kuenssberg OBE, who stands down as Chairman in June 2010 after nine years.

Philip Rodney is one of Scotland's leading lawyers. Specialising in media and entertainment law, product liability and dispute resolution, he brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and networks in a number of fields of strategic importance to both the GSA and the creative industries sector.

As Chairman of the GSA Board, Philip will lead a team of governors, drawn from a range of backgrounds and expertise, responsible for setting the strategic direction of the School and overseeing the Director and her senior team as they deliver the School's strategic objectives including the redevelopment of the School's estate, the development of international partnerships and ongoing excellence in learning, teaching and research.

Seona Reid, Director of The Glasgow School of Art said:

"I am delighted that Philip has accepted the Board's invitation to become Chairman, a worthy successor to Nick Kuenssberg, whose nine year period as Chairman, has been marked by numerous successes. I look forward to working with him as we embark on a particularly exciting period in the School's history.

Philip Rodney, Chairman said:

"I am honoured to have been appointed as Chairman of The Glasgow School of Art, an institution which is very much at the heart of Glasgow and of its growth sectors of higher education, creative industries, and cultural tourism. It is an exciting moment to be taking

over the reins, as the School continues its drive to further enhance its already enviable reputation as one of Europe's leading higher education institution for creative education and research."

Professor Nick Kuenssberg, outgoing Chairman of the GSA said:

"It has been a real pleasure to be intimately involved with the GSA and to help Seona Reid and her team ensure that the future of the GSA will be even more exciting and dynamic than its past, building on the platform of a renewed real estate and research structure".

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For further information or images, please contact Alison Hunter, Media Relations Officer, The Glasgow School of Art. T: +44 (0) 141 566 1442 M: +44 (0) 7939 954 836

Notes to editors:

Philip Rodney

- Studied Law with English, Economics and Industrial Administration at the University of Strathclyde
- Qualified as a solicitor in 1976, and was a Partner at Alexander Stone and Co from 1979 to 1998 before becoming a Partner at Burness LLP.
- Philip is now Burness' Chairman and Head of the Dispute Resolution Unit. He has particular experience in managing complex litigation projects and has a cross border practice, acting for institutional and commercial organisations.
- Since becoming Chairman, he has been responsible for developing strategy which has transformed Burness LLP into one of Scotland's top commercial law firms. The firm's achievements were recognised at the Lawyer Awards 2008 when it won National/Regional Firm of the Year Award – the first Scottish firm to do so.
- He has also developed the firm's CSR policy.
- He is a Governor at Hutchesons' Educational Trust in Glasgow.
- Interests are photography, travel and family.

Professor Nick Kuenssberg OBE, BA (Oxon), FCIS, CCMI, FIoD, FRSA

- Nick has been Chairman of the GSA Board of Governors since 2001.
- He is also a leading businessman with an extensive international career of some 30 years and experience on boards such as Coats Viyella, Dynacast International, Scottish Power, Standard Life, Stoddard International and Dawson International.
- He has been a visiting Professor at Strathclyde University, an external examiner at Aberdeen Business School and Chairman of the Institute of Directors, Scotland, Scotland the Brand and ScotlandIS.
- He is currently chairman Canmore Partnership Ltd, VegaStream Holdings Ltd and Scott & Fyfe Ltd. and of Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education Scotland, a board member of Quality Assurance Agency UK and an honorary professor at the University of Glasgow.

The Glasgow School of Art (www.gsa.ac.uk)

- Founded in 1845 as a Government School of Design and is one of the UK's oldest higher education institutions for creative education and research. Today the GSA is one of the Europe's leading university-level institutions for the creative education and research in fine art, design and architecture, and is one of the few remaining independent art schools in the UK.
- The excellence of GSA's practice-based research was recognised in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, being ranked as the second largest visual art and design research community in the UK after the University of the Arts London with 25% of research considered to be world-leading and a further 25% internationally recognised.
- The GSA has an international community of over 1900 students studying fine art, design and architecture and a growing postgraduate population of approximate 300 students. 20% of GSA students are from outside the UK.
- Since 2005, 30% of Turner Prize nominees have been graduates of the GSA as have two winners - Richard Wright in 2009 and Simon Starling in 2005.
- Figures published by HESA (15 April 2010) show the GSA has the lowest drop out rate for students in Scotland (2.1%) Scotland's and third in the UK after the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.
- In 2007, Design Week included the GSA in its HOT 50 list of design leaders saying that the GSA is a "leader in the field of design education"
- The Architects Journal has consistently ranked the Mackintosh School of Architecture as the top architecture school in Scotland and third in the UK based on the views of 100 major architectural practices in the UK

Burness LLP (www.burness.co.uk)

- Burness is one of Scotland's premier commercial law firms, providing advice to clients in the commercial and public sectors. The firm is specialist in a number of fields including Construction and Projects, Banking, Corporate Finance, Dispute Resolution, Employment and Commercial Property.