

News Release

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HORNIMAN MUSEUM AND GARDENS WINS £100,000 ART FUND MUSEUM OF THE YEAR 2022



Horniman Museum and Gardens, The Horniman Museum clocktower © Andrew Lee

High-res press images available for download via: <https://bit.ly/moty2022>

Horniman Museum and Gardens is announced as Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022 this evening (14 July 2022). Nick Merriman, Director, was presented with the £100,000 prize - the largest museum prize in the world - by DJ and broadcaster Huw Stephens at a ceremony at the Design Museum, London.

Located in Forest Hill, the Horniman is London's only museum where environment, ecology and human cultures can be seen side by side at a global scale. During 2021, following a period of reflection prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic, climate emergency and the murder of George Floyd, they reimagined the role they could play as a creative hub for their local community. The result was a transformational Reset Agenda – an ambitious programme focused on re-orientating activity to reach diverse audiences more representative of London. This included embedding a Climate and Ecology Manifesto, from an online club of Environment Champions to the creation of a micro-forest to combat local air pollution. From

a takeover of the galleries by children to its youth panel of 14-19 year olds, work experience opportunities and Kickstart apprenticeships, the museum is inspiring the next generation.

A further focus of the Reset Agenda was the 696 Programme, an interrogation of the power and responsibility public organisations have in supporting local music. Showcasing Black British creativity and placing it at the Horniman's heart, a sold-out festival reached 8000 visitors and nearly 20,000 experienced the related exhibition. The Horniman is also spearheading the collaboration amongst museums through its MAGNET group of organisations sharing collections-based touring exhibitions.

Jenny Waldman, Art Fund director and chair of the judges for Art Fund Museum of the Year, said, *'The Horniman Museum and Gardens has now blossomed into a truly holistic museum bringing together art, nature and its myriad collections. Its values are woven through everything it now does, with a passionate team breathing life and meaning into every object, performance, plant and animal. In many ways it's the perfect museum, and I would encourage everyone to go and experience all it has to offer.'*

Dame Diane Lees, Director-General, Imperial War Museums, and judge for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022, said, *'The Horniman Museum and Gardens are championing the natural environment, commissioning artists and music festivals, to bring the eclectic collections of Frederick Horniman new relevance with diverse communities. They are setting the agenda for how a traditional museum can reinvent itself through powerful ideas.'*

The winner was one of five finalists. The other shortlisted museums were: Derby Museums, Museum of Making (Derby), People's History Museum (Manchester), The Story Museum (Oxford) and Tŷ Pawb (Wrexham).

Each of the other finalist museums receives a £15,000 prize in recognition of their achievements.

The members of this year's judging panel, chaired by Art Fund Director Jenny Waldman, are: Dame Diane Lees, Director-General, Imperial War Museums; Harold Offeh, artist and educator; Dr Janina Ramirez, cultural historian and broadcaster, and Huw Stephens, BBC Radio 6 DJ and broadcaster.

Art Fund, the UK's national charity for art, awards Art Fund Museum of the Year annually to one outstanding museum. The 2022 edition champions organisations whose achievements tell the story of museums' creativity and resilience, and particularly focuses on those engaging the next generation of audiences in innovative ways. Art Fund Museum of the Year is the largest museum prize in the world.

#museumoftheyear

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NOTES TO EDITORS**The Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022 finalists were:****Derby Museums, Museum of Making (Derby)**

The Museum of Making opened in May 2021 following an £18m redevelopment plan at Derby Silk Mill, originally built in 1721 and considered to be the site of the world's first factory. Exploring the story of making in Derby over 300 years, the museum is inspiring the next generation to be makers of the future. Over 1000 volunteers contributed to its transformation, from helping to move the collection to creating art installations and conserving the heritage building, embedding public participation at the core of the museum. Since opening, the museum has attracted over 105,000 visitors. The Museum of Making membership scheme provides a vital opportunity for people to join a creative community: members can work on site with specialist equipment and technical support, encouraging and empowering future makers and innovators. Its learning programme with local partners Rolls-Royce integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths as a multidisciplinary approach, helping to forge deep relationships with the local community and aiming to improve young peoples' skills to enter the workforce in a city in need of technicians, engineers, and problem solvers.

People's History Museum (Manchester)

People's History Museum is inspiring the next generation to be active citizens, to use their voices and to make a difference. It showcases the struggle for equity and equality and provides space to explore contemporary issues through marginalised voices. Stories of radical history and contemporary changemakers are celebrated through a collection of 60,000 objects and the largest collection of political and trade union banners in the world. The museum co-creates its programmes in partnership with communities. In 2021-2 Migration has been its headline theme, working with those who have experienced it first-hand. The exhibition More in Common: in memory of Jo Cox explored the life and legacy of Jo Cox MP working with a wide variety of people living in Manchester. In the context of national conversations about migration, People's History Museum has shifted from a museum about campaigning to a museum that campaigns, standing Together With Refugees to challenge the Nationality and Borders Bill and the approach it will take on the right to seek asylum. The museum has also joined 350 organisations to oppose the Police, Crime, Courts and Sentencing Bill, fearing it will silence marginalised voices.

The Story Museum (Oxford)

The Story Museum fires the imaginations of young people through the power of stories. The museum reopened in May 2021 after a £6m redevelopment working with 50 designers, makers and creatives to bring a host of stories to life in 10 immersive galleries and activity

spaces. They have since welcomed 80,000 visitors. Spaces including a Whispering Wood, Enchanted Library, Small Worlds picture book gallery and Learning Studio inspired by Hogwarts connect visitors creatively with stories in all forms. The museum directly addresses inequality in Oxford where 26% of children live below the poverty line, with its work shown to effectively promote early oracy, literacy and motivation to read independently. The programme also tackles isolation in families with young children experienced as a result of the pandemic. Its upcoming exhibition will inspire children to become the next generation of comic artists and writers. In 2022 the Story Museum will also launch its Minecraft Museum project, working with teenagers to create a digital version of the Enchanted Library gallery space.

Tŷ Pawb (Wrexham)

Tŷ Pawb creates a community space for everyone - a museum in a market with makers, traders and galleries all under one roof. This coexistence celebrates the significance of markets within Wrexham's cultural heritage and identity, saving a traditional space and bringing services and creatives together to make and sell. In 2021 Tŷ Pawb also transformed a gallery into 'Lle Celf Ddefnyddiol' or 'Useful Art Space'. The space is for creative workshops, community conversations, play sessions, informal performances and other uses imagined by the local community - inspired by the belief that art can be a tool for social change. Projects closely serve the needs of local people, from free play sessions for families to 'Make Yourself at Home', working with refugees to learn a range of craft techniques to develop creative making skills and supporting them in establishing micro-businesses. An ambitious programme of contemporary art working with artists from Sean Edwards to Assemble features within the gallery spaces. Tŷ Pawb is at the heart of a burgeoning local arts and culture scene, with Wrexham County Borough reaching the shortlist to become UK City of Culture 2025.

About Art Fund Museum of the Year

Art Fund has supported Museum of the Year since 2008. Its forerunner was the Prize for Museums and Galleries, administered by the Museum Prize Trust and sponsored by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation from 2003-2007. The prize champions what museums do, encourages more people to visit and gets to the heart of what makes a truly outstanding museum. The judges present the prize to the museum or gallery that has shown how their achievements of the preceding year stand out, demonstrated what makes their work innovative, and the impact it has had on audiences.

Winners 2008 - 2021:

- 2008 - The Lightbox, Woking
- 2009 - Wedgwood Museum, Stoke-on-Trent,
- 2010 - Ulster Museum, Belfast
- 2011 - British Museum
- 2012 - Royal Albert Memorial Museum
- 2013 - William Morris Gallery, London
- 2014 - Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield
- 2015 - Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester
- 2016 - Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), London
- 2017 - The Hepworth, Wakefield

2018 - Tate St Ives

2019 - St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff

2020 - Aberdeen Art Gallery; Gairloch Museum; Science Museum; South London Gallery; and Towner Eastbourne.

2021 – Firstsite, Colchester

About Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by Art Partners, donors, trusts and foundations and the 130,000 members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine. Art Fund also supports museums through its annual prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year. www.artfund.org