

## PRESS RELEASE

7 August 2019

### Art Fund announces winners of New Collecting Awards

- *£300,000 awarded to 'rising star' curators to build collections for their museums.*
- *Projects supported this year include works by international women sculptors, Japanese illustrated books and digital design.*

Today Art Fund announced the seven curators to receive funding through its New Collecting Awards programme. Now celebrating its fifth year, the programme supports focused projects by curators with the aim of developing museum collections into new areas or expanding existing collections.

Over the past five years the scheme has awarded over £1.5 million to support 30 UK curators build museum collections in imaginative and visionary ways. These have included the formation of a fine art collection of LGBT+ culture and history, a collection of work exploring war and the digital, and the acquisition of work by black artists exploring issues of race and diversity.

This year's winning proposals include a project at the Sainsbury Centre to acquire sculptural works on paper by international women artists and a project at the V&A to collect key examples of digital design.

The 2019 winners are:

- Tania Moore, Curator, Sainsbury Centre, Norwich offered £80,000 to acquire sculptors' drawings and works on paper by international women artists.
- Uthra Rajgopal, Assistant Curator (Textiles and Wallpaper), the Whitworth, the University of Manchester offered £38,600 to develop the gallery's collection of South Asian textile artworks by female artists.
- Lucy Creighton, Curator of Archaeology, Yorkshire Museum, York offered £50,000 to diversify and strengthen the Yorkshire Museum's collection of pre-1600 archaeology and numismatics through a holistic approach to collecting.
- Ben Miller, Assistant Curator of Ceramics, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent offered £25,000 to build a collection exploring the 300-year history of North Staffordshire ceramics created for and used by the hospitality industry.
- Natalie Kane, Curator of Digital Design, V&A, London offered £35,000 to research and

collect examples of digital design.

- Louise Boyd, Japan Foundation Assistant Curator, National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh offered £40,000 to acquire a number of ehon, Japanese woodblock-printed illustrated books.
- Emily Riddle, Assistant Curator, The Hepworth Wakefield offered £30,000 to collect post-war ceramics by artists associated with the Central School of Arts and Crafts.

Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund director said 'An important part of being a curator today is drawing out the potential of their museums' collections and considering how best to develop them in new ways. The New Collecting Awards give some of the UK's rising curatorial stars the opportunity to diversify their institutions' holdings, bringing benefit to a widening range of audiences and helping our museums to thrive.'

These New Collecting Awards are made possible by a number of generous individuals and trusts including the Wolfson Foundation, the Ruddock Foundation for the Arts, the Coral Samuel Charitable Trust and the Vivmar Foundation.

This latest round of funding, worth almost £300,000, includes a ring-fenced Award to give a curator a mandate to build a pre-1600 collection for their museum, supported by the Ruddock Foundation for the Arts. This funding will go towards the project at Yorkshire Museum by curator Lucy Creighton.

Each of the recipients receive a budget for acquisitions, a funding allocation for research, travel and training costs, plus the ongoing support of Art Fund staff, trustees, and a mentor.

## Media enquiries

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## Notes to Editors

### Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. In the past five years alone Art Fund has given £34 million to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections. It also helps museums share their collections with wider audiences by supporting a range of tours and exhibitions, and makes additional grants to support the training and professional development of curators. Art Fund is independently funded, with the core of its income provided by 151,000 members who receive the National Art Pass and enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions and subscription to Art Quarterly magazine. In addition to grant-giving, Art Fund's support for museums includes Art Fund Museum of the Year (won by St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff in 2019) and a range of digital platforms.

## The Hepworth Wakefield

Designed by the acclaimed David Chipperfield Architects, The Hepworth Wakefield is set within Wakefield's historic waterfront, overlooking the River Calder. The gallery opened in May 2011 and was awarded Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017. Named after Barbara Hepworth, one of the most important artists of the 20th century who was born and brought up in Wakefield, the gallery presents major exhibitions of the best international modern and contemporary art. It is also home to Wakefield's art collection – an impressive compendium of modern British and contemporary art – and has dedicated galleries exploring Hepworth's art and working process. In summer 2019, the first phase of The Hepworth Wakefield Garden will open alongside the gallery. Designed by Tom Stuart-Smith, it will feature sculptures and be one of the largest free public gardens in the UK.

[www.hepworthwakefield.org](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org)

## National Museums Scotland

National Museums Scotland is one of the leading museum groups in the UK and Europe and it looks after collections of national and international importance. The organisation provides loans, partnerships, research and training in Scotland and internationally. Our individual museums are the National Museum of Scotland, the National Museum of Flight, the National Museum of Rural Life and the National War Museum. The National Museums Collection Centre in Edinburgh houses conservation and research facilities as well as collections not currently on display.

[www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk)

Twitter: @NtlMuseumsScot

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumsScotland](https://www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumsScotland)

Instagram: @NationalMuseumsScotland

## The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent is one of the services delivered by Stoke-on-Trent City Council for its residents. It boasts a series of internationally renowned exhibitions, including the world's best collection of Staffordshire ceramics as well as the Staffordshire Hoard and an Mk.XVI Spitfire. All of the museum's collections are categorised as designated collections, recognising their national importance. Galleries also include fine and decorative arts, costume, local history, archaeology and natural history. The museum provides an engaging programme of exhibitions, activities and learning experiences for the City's residents, schools and visitors to the area. It has a number of national and international partnerships across Europe and from the USA to China, delivering world class activities and exhibitions.

<http://www.stokemuseums.org.uk/visit/pmag/>

## Sainsbury Centre

The Sainsbury Centre is one of the most important public university art galleries in Britain. Designed between 1974 and 1976, the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts was the first major public building designed by now renowned architect Norman Foster. It was opened in 1978 at the University of East Anglia (UEA) with the support of one of the nation's great philanthropic families, Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury who donated their extraordinary art collection which includes works dating from prehistory to the late twentieth century from across the globe. A radical new building by Norman Foster was designed to house the collection and was his first public work.

The Sainsbury Centre holds one of the most impressive art collections outside of the national institutions. It includes a significant number of works by modern masters of European art such as Pablo Picasso, Edgar Degas, Alberto Giacometti, Henry Moore, Francis Bacon, Jacob Epstein, Jean Arp, Chaim Soutine and Amedeo Modigliani. There are major holdings from Oceania, Africa, the Americas, Asia, the ancient Mediterranean cultures of Egypt, Greece and Rome, as well as medieval Europe. The Centre hosts a range of exhibitions in the largest suite of temporary exhibitions galleries in Eastern England.

[scva.ac.uk](http://scva.ac.uk)

## The V&A:

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art, design and performance with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity, spanning 5000 years of human creativity. It was established in 1852 to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, its purpose is to champion creative industry, inspire the next generation, and spark everyone's imagination.

[vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumsScotland](https://www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumsScotland)

Instagram: [@NationalMuseumsScotland](https://www.instagram.com/NationalMuseumsScotland)

## The Whitworth

The Whitworth is proudly part of the University of Manchester and serves as a bridge between the University and the people of the city; a place to meet, play and learn in public.

Its mission is to use art for social change; founded in 1889 as the Whitworth Institute and Park in memory of the industrialist Sir Joseph Whitworth for "the perpetual gratification of the people of Manchester", with clear practical aims to counteract the malaises of inner-city life and to educate and inspire a city of makers and manufacturing.

The Whitworth re-opened to the public in 2015 after a major £17 million redevelopment by architects MUMA. It has welcomed over one million visitors since re-opening, and more than doubled its previous annual records. The redevelopment doubled the public space and created state-of-the-art new facilities to house the collection of over 55,000 works of art and included expanded gallery spaces, a study centre, learning studio, and a collections centre. The gallery was crowned Art Fund Museum of Year 2015, nominated for the prestigious Stirling Prize and named Best Emerging Cultural Destination in Europe.

[www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth)

# Art Fund\_

The gallery has historically been at the centre of civic and cultural life and this is also its future.

## Yorkshire Museum

The Yorkshire Museum sits in the heart of York Museum Gardens, in the centre of York.

The museum was opened in 1830 by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society and was one of the first purpose-built museums in the country.

The museum houses five galleries showcasing some of Britain's finest archaeological treasures from the city's Roman, Viking and medieval past. These include the Roman statue of Mars, the best example of 3D Roman sculpture ever found in Britain, the York Helmet and the stunning Middleham Jewel. It is also home to a large natural history collection of national significance. Currently the prehistoric creatures which once swam and roamed around what we now call Yorkshire are on display in the exhibition, Yorkshire's Jurassic World.

Our aim is to make the Yorkshire Museum a must-see destination in a tour around the beautiful city of York.

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