FIVE MUSEUMS SHORTLISTED FOR ART FUND MUSEUM OF THE YEAR 2022

WINNER OF £100,000 PRIZE ANNOUNCED ON 14 JULY 2022

Art Fund, the national charity for art, today announced the five museums selected as finalists for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022, the world’s largest museum prize.

The shortlisted museums are:

Derby Museums, Museum of Making (Derby)
Horniman Museum and Gardens (London)
People’s History Museum (Manchester)
The Story Museum (Oxford)
Ty Pawb (Wrexham)

Art Fund annually shortlists five outstanding museums for the Museum of the Year prize. 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.

The winning museum will be announced at a ceremony at the Design Museum in London on 14 July and will receive £100,000. The other four shortlisted museums will each receive £15,000 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. The judges will visit each of the finalists to help inform their decision-making, while each museum will make the most of being shortlisted over the summer through events and activities for both new and current visitors.

Speaking on behalf of the judges, Jenny Waldman, Director, Art Fund said, “An abundance of applications to be Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022 shows the creativity and resilience of museums right around the country, despite the immense challenges of the last two years. The five superb finalists are all museums on a mission who are tackling the vital issues of today – from combating the climate emergency to improving literacy or exploring migration – and reaching diverse communities as they do so. Each is working hard to encourage the next generation to get involved, both to inspire them and to equip them with essential skills”

Art Fund Museum of the Year continues its collaboration with the BBC in 2022.

#museumoftheyear

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Notes to Editors:

THE SHORTLISTED MUSEUMS

Horniman Museum and Gardens (London)
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 self-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 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. A further focus of the Reset Agenda was to embed 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. The Horniman is also spearheading the collaboration amongst museums through its MAGNET group of organisations sharing collections-based touring exhibitions.
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 90,000 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.

THE 2022 JUDGING PANEL
Jenny Waldman (Chair)
Formerly director of 14-18 NOW, the UK’s official arts programme for the First World War Centenary, Jenny joined Art Fund as director in May 2020. At 14-18 NOW she oversaw a programme of commissions of over 100 new works from leading UK and international contemporary artists including John Akomfrah, Jeremy Deller, Peter Jackson, William Kentridge, Susan Philipsz, Yinka Shonibare CBE and Rachel Whiteread. Prior to this she was Creative Producer of the London 2012 Festival, and Public Programmes Consultant to Somerset House Trust. Jenny is Chair of Trustees of Artangel and a member of the Barbican Centre Board. She was awarded a CBE in the 2017 New Year Honours for services to the arts.

Dame Diane Lees, Director-General, Imperial War Museums
Since October 2008, Diane Lees has served as Director-General of the Imperial War Museums. She has worked on some of the most challenging and exciting projects in the country, including recovery and display of the Mary Rose flagship in Portsmouth Harbour and the redisplay of the Nelson Galleries at the Royal Naval Museum. She project-managed the creation of the UK standard for the recording of information about museum collections (SPECTRUM) and was responsible for the creation of the only museum of law in the country, the multi-award-winning Galleries of Justice in Nottingham. She is the Vice-President of the American Air Museum in Britain and The Gerry Holdsworth Special Forces Trust. Lees was awarded a CBE in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours list in January 2015 and a DBE in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours list in January 2022 for services to museums.

Harold Offeh, artist and educator
Harold Offeh is an artist working across performance, video, photography, learning and social arts practice. He is interested in the space created by the inhabiting or embodying of histories. He employs humour as a means to confront the viewer with historical narratives and contemporary culture. Offeh has exhibited widely including at Tate Britain and Tate Modern, South London Gallery, Wellcome Collection, Kettle’s Yard, Wysing Art Centre, Studio Museum Harlem, MAC VAL, France, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Denmark and Art Tower Mito, Japan. Recent commissions include a new video work exploring the redemptive power of joy through social dance for On Happiness at the Wellcome Collection, and a children’s play area for Bluecoat Contemporary Art Centre, Liverpool. Offeh lives and works in Cambridge and London. He is a Tutor in Contemporary Art Practice at the Royal College of Art, London. In 2019, he was a recipient of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists, the largest award of its kind in the UK.

Dr. Janina Ramirez, cultural historian and broadcaster
Dr Janina Ramirez is a presenter, lecturer and researcher. She specialises in interpreting symbols and examining art works within their historical context. Following a degree in English Language and Literature at St Anne’s College, Oxford, Nina went to the prestigious Centre for Medieval Studies in York. Here she completed an MA and PhD on birds in Anglo-Saxon art and literature. She has published widely on medieval art and literature and has taught and researched across a broad chronological sweep, covering everything from the sculptures of antiquity to post-modern architecture. Her experience also stretches beyond the world of art, having lectured in archaeology, history, literature and language. She has worked on a number of documentaries for BBC4. These have included ‘Saints & Sinners: Britain’s Millennium of Monasteries’, ‘Illuminations: The Private Lives of Medieval Kings’ and ‘Chivalry & Betrayal: The Hundred Years War’. She is a passionate and enthused academic driven by a desire to share ideas.

Huw Stephens, BBC Radio 6 DJ and broadcaster
Huw Stephens is a presenter, dj and host. He joined BBC Radio 1 at 17, becoming the youngest ever Radio 1 DJ. He has broadcast live from Glastonbury, Reading Festival, Sonar, South by South West, Eurosonic on BBC Radio 1, as well as live from Radio 1’s own Teen Awards and Big Weekend. His passion for new music has meant he has been the first to champion countless new artists early on. He has contributed to BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, 6Music and presented on BBC Radio Wales, and presents regularly on the BBC World Service. Huw is the founder of the Swn Festival in Cardiff, Wales’ premier new music festival. He curates the Lake Stage at Latitude Festival, compères the main stage at Reading Festival, and has d’j’d and curated at Green Man Festival, Festival No 6, Bestival, T in the Park and Glastonbury. Huw presents a weekly show on BBC Radio Cymru playing new artists from Wales and the world. He champions new music and d’j’s at the Eisteddfod, the National Festival of Wales. He founded two record labels; Boobytrap and
Am Records and has released two compilations on Wichita Recordings named Music Sounds Better With Huw.

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
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. In response to Covid-19 Art Fund made £3.6 million in urgent funding available to support museums through reopening and beyond, including Respond and Reimagine grants to help meet immediate need and reimagine future ways of working. A further £2 million has been made available in 2021 for Reimagine projects. 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. The winner of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021 is Firstsite in Colchester.

www.artfund.org