

News release

23 July 2007

TEN MUSEUMS CLOSER TO WINNING SHARE OF ART FUND'S £5 MILLION INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY COLLECTING SCHEME



The Art Fund, the UK's leading independent art charity, has selected ten UK museums and contemporary art organisations to go forward to round two of its new international contemporary collecting scheme **Art Fund International**.

The ten selected partnerships are:

- **Marischal Museum**, Aberdeen in partnership with Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts and Pier Arts Centre
- **Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery** and **New Art Gallery Walsall** in partnership with Ikon
- **Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives** in partnership with Arnolfini
- **University of Essex Collection of Latin American Art** in partnership with firstsite:newsite and El Museo del Barrio, New York
- **Towner Art Gallery**, Eastbourne in partnership with Photoworks, Brighton Photo Biennial and Artsway
- **Falmouth Art Gallery** in partnership with The Eden Project, The October Gallery, The Penrose Collection and other supporting institutions
- **Gallery of Modern Art**, Glasgow in partnership with The Common Guild
- **mima (Middlesborough Institute of Modern Art)** in partnership with The Drawing Centre, New York and a number of other institutions
- **Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery** in partnership with EAST*international*, Norwich School of Art and Design
- **Harris Museum and Art Gallery**, Preston in partnership with Sandbox (UCLan)

We are an independent charity committed to saving art for everyone to enjoy. Since we began in 1903, we have helped to save over 850,000 works of art. Today, some 80,000 members fund our work. In return, they receive free or reduced-price admission to many museums and galleries in the UK. This is not the only reason they join: they support us because they love art.

The Art Fund announced it was committing £5 million to a new initiative aimed at developing the collections of international contemporary art in UK regional museums and galleries in April this year.

A total of twenty-nine museums in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland responded to the charity's initial call for entries with applications requesting a total of £28.6 million. The geographical focus was hugely varied, with applications for art from Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, and Australia. The range of media was also vast, including painting, sculpture, photography, temporary installations, new media, ceramics, earthworks, glass work and automata.

Applicants were asked to set out a strategy for the formation of a collection of international contemporary art and establish a partnership with at least one other non-collecting organisation like a commissioning agency or exhibition space. It is anticipated that five of the organisations listed above will win funding from The Art Fund. The final

list of museums and their proposed collecting areas will be announced in November 2007.

Art Fund International has its origins in The Art Fund's centenary exhibition and conference in 2003, which identified the historic failure of UK museums in the 20th century to acquire contemporary art being produced by non-British artists like Picasso, Kandinsky and Hopper. The charity, keen to ensure Britain doesn't make the same mistakes in the 21st century, decided to dedicate a separate fund of money with the specific aim of enriching the contemporary holdings of UK regional collections, most of which have in the past focused almost exclusively on the work of British artists. The initiative is being run alongside the charity's regular grant-giving programme and will be rolled out over a five year period following the initial application process.

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For further information please contact Sarah Harrison or Tanera Bryden in The Art Fund Press Office on 020 7225 2820/4822

Notes to editors:

- The Art Fund established a new committee to take responsibility for the scheme. The committee consists of five existing members of The Art Fund's Board: Professor Lord Renfrew (Chair); Professor Michael Craig Martin; Dr David Landau; Dr Deborah Swallow and Felicity Waley-Cohen and four external members with extensive international curatorial expertise: Catherine Lampert, former Director, Whitechapel; James Lingwood, co-Director, ArtAngel; Hans Ulrich Obrist, co-director of Exhibitions and Programmes and Director of International Projects, The Serpentine and Ralph Rugoff, Director, Hayward Gallery
- **Art Fund International** was open to all accredited museums and galleries in the UK except those in London and Edinburgh
- Applications are being considered in a two stage process: registrations of interest by 22 June 2007 and then submission of formal bids by invited applicants only in September 2007. Successful applicants will be announced in November 2007
- The Art Fund is the UK's leading independent art charity. It offers grants to help UK museums and galleries enrich their collections and campaigns widely on behalf of museums and their visitors. It is entirely funded from public donations and has 80,000 members
- In 2006 The Art Fund offered over £5 million to museums and galleries to help them acquire new works of art for their collections
- Since 1903 the charity has helped museums and galleries all over the UK secure 860,000 works of art for their collections
- Independent of government, The Art Fund is uniquely placed to campaign on behalf of public collections across the UK. It was at the forefront of the campaign for free admission in 2001 and the campaign to save the Macclesfield Psalter in 2005
- Visit the charity's website at www.artfund.org