

Call for Expressions of Interest

The Art Fund has set up a pilot initiative, Art Fund International, to develop collections of international contemporary art within UK regional institutions.

At this stage we are inviting Expressions of Interest from institutions who wish to participate in the scheme.

The aims and outline of the project are described below. The overarching aim is to make a step change in the scale, ambitions and ability with which regional centres can collect international contemporary art.

Aims

The initiative, Art Fund International, aims to enrich the contemporary holdings of UK regional collections, many of which have in the past focussed on the work of British artists. We encourage applicants to explore the possibility of acquiring contemporary work in any media, and from any part of the world, made by non-British artists.

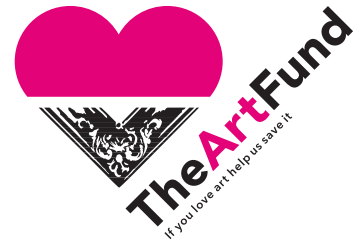
Applicants are asked to think as broadly as possible when considering how they might define 'international'. We want applications to be ambitious and distinctive, and want our eventual selection to include some schemes with outstanding work being made from traditions other than the western European and North American.

Outline of Scheme

The Art Fund has committed up to £5,000,000 to the project. This will be rolled out over a five-year period following a bidding process in 2007. We envisage up to five successful partnerships will be selected and have funds ring-fenced for the duration of the project. Applicants will be required to commit to the project for its full five-year duration. Artworks will be 100% funded by The Art Fund. The amount of money allocated to each bid will depend on the nature of the proposals.

We are inviting Expressions of Interest from institutions who wish to work in a partnership comprising an accredited museum or gallery and at least one other organisation with expertise in contemporary art. Partner institutions will most likely be located close to each other, but we will not exclude partnerships which are more geographically separated if a convincing case for them is made. Suggested partnerships might include an accredited municipal museum; a publicly-funded contemporary art gallery (with a dedicated exhibitions programme); and/or a not-for-profit contemporary art commissioning agency.

Applicants are required to set out a strategy for the formation of a collection of international contemporary art under Art Fund International. Proposals should outline the area or areas in which they wish to collect and explain their choice. Such collections may for example be thematic, geographic or focus on a specific medium – any clearly defined collecting area will be considered.



Patron
Her Majesty The Queen

Chairman
David Verey CBE

Treasurer
Paul Zuckerman

Director
David Barrie

We are prepared to consider site-specific works, commissions and possibly temporary installations

Applicants will need to demonstrate a commitment from their governing bodies to support the project throughout its duration, including making sufficient curatorial time available, and allocating resources for necessary development, support and training. The Art Fund will not provide funding for administration, out-of-pocket expenses or training, but the participants are free to seek such funding from elsewhere and should indicate in their bids if they think extra support in these areas will be necessary.

Following initial Expressions of Interest, The Art Fund will invite formal bids from selected applicants.

Once the successful applicants have been chosen, The Art Fund will commit to funding a series of acquisitions by the lead institution over a five-year period in accordance with the proposed and approved collecting strategies. However, individual acquisitions will still be subject to the approval of The Art Fund.

Successful applicants will be required to undertake not to enter into any contracts, agreements or other arrangements whatsoever with third parties in relation to Art Fund International without the prior written consent of The Art Fund.

We will require regular progress reports from successful applicants. The Art Fund reserves the right to cease funding if the quality of individual bids is not maintained. Funding may not be transferred between institutions.

Once acquired, ownership of the works will be vested in the lead museum, subject to The Art Fund's Grant Conditions. The lead museum will also be responsible for all security and conservation issues.

Any funds allocated to a successful institution for Art Fund International acquisitions which have not been spent at the end of the five year period will be retained by The Art Fund or remain available to the said institution at the sole discretion of The Art Fund.

Eligibility

Any museum or gallery accredited with the MLA other than those in London and Edinburgh are eligible to participate.

Partner institutions will most likely be local to the collecting institution but can be located anywhere, including London and Edinburgh.

Selection Process: Art Fund International Committee

The Art Fund Board has established a committee which is responsible for this scheme.

This 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, Four external members who have extensive international curatorial expertise have also joined the committee. These are Catherine Lampert; James Lingwood; Hans Ulrich Obrist; and Ralph Rugoff.

Application process

Applications will be considered in a two stage process.

Stage one – Expressions of Interest

Initial Expressions of Interest should be submitted by 12 noon on Friday 22 June 2007. Prospective participants are asked to describe, in approximately 1,000 words:

- their intended partnerships
- the area in which they wish to collect
- any additional support they believe will be necessary to deliver the project

Applications must be accompanied by an indicative timetable and budget and a letter from each proposed partner organisation, demonstrating each partner's support of the proposal.

Applicants are asked to discuss their proposal with The Art Fund as soon as possible and certainly prior to submission.

Stage two – Submission of Formal Bid

Applicants who are invited to proceed to the next stage will be required to submit a detailed written proposal by 28 August 2007, to include:

- clear outline of the project aims and intended outcomes
- fully developed strategy for the formation of a collection under Art Fund International
- curator's statement
- timetable
- budget
- jointly signed letter or statement or similar from each consortium member demonstrating their commitment to the scheme and outlining the nature of that commitment

Applicants may be expected to host site visits to help The Art Fund assess their bids, and will be required to make a presentation of the bid to the members of the Committee in London in September 2007.

Successful applicants will be notified by November 2007.

Applicants should note that taking part in this scheme will not affect other applications to The Art Fund from the same institution.

Expressions of Interest:

Interested parties must seek advice from The Art Fund before submitting Expressions of Interest. Please contact:

Rachael Browning, Grants Officer, on 020 7225 4816 rbrowning@artfund.org or
Francesca Geens, Head of Grants, on 020 7225 4815 fgeens@artfund.org

Expressions of Interest should be delivered in both in electronic and hard copy to The Art Fund, Millais House, 7 Cromwell Place, London SW7 2JN by noon on Friday 22 June 2007.

The Art Fund
3 April 2007