

ArtFundPrize 2012

for museums and galleries

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Art Fund Prize 2012: Applications open for £100,000 award

- **10th Anniversary of the Prize**
- **Clore Award for Museum Learning opens for second year**

The application process for the Art Fund Prize 2012 and the Clore Award for Museum Learning 2012 opens today. UK museums and galleries are invited to submit their applications before 4pm, 1 December 2011.

2012 will be the 10th year that the prestigious £100,000 prize is awarded to a museum or gallery that demonstrates excellence, originality and imagination for a project undertaken in the previous year. The Prize has been funded since 2008 by the Art Fund.

Under the umbrella of the Art Fund Prize, the Clore Award for Museum Learning also opens for applications for the second year. The Clore Award 2012 has a focus on work with children and young people. The Award celebrates quality museum and gallery learning with children and young people (from early years up to the age of 25) in any setting, in or out of school/college. An award of £10,000 will recognise achievements in learning programmes which develop the skills, knowledge, values and enjoyment of the participants.

Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund Director, said: “The Art Fund Prize really does celebrate the incredible achievements of our museums and galleries over the past year – whether it’s outstanding exhibitions, visionary programmes, ambitious building projects or refurbishments – this is *the* award of the museum world and I have every expectation that this 10th anniversary of the award will herald the very best activity of the last year and bring them to life for new audiences. I encourage museums and galleries large and small to apply.”

Penelope, Viscountess Cobham, Chairman of the Museum Prize Trust, said “Both the Art Fund Prize and the Clore Award recognise the very best of the museum and gallery world. They provide an opportunity to showcase the ambition, vision and successes in UK museums and galleries in 2011. We welcome and look forward to a wide range of entries in this celebratory tenth anniversary year.”

Sally Bacon, Executive Director of the Clore Duffield Foundation, said: “Following a great start to the Clore Award in 2011 we have revised the criteria to put a strong emphasis on celebrating work with children and young people. We are really keen to see projects strongly rooted in the use of objects or collections which involve high-quality learning outcomes for the young participants. We are very much looking forward to seeing a diverse and exciting array of applications from across the UK.”

The judging panel for the 2012 award will be announced in November 2011.

In 2011 the Art Fund Prize was won by the British Museum for its groundbreaking project ‘*A History of the World*’. The museum has announced plans to use the prize money to fund a series of Spotlight Tours of star objects from the collection to be loaned to museums around the UK.

The inaugural Clore Award was given to both the South London Gallery and a consortium of the Pitt Rivers Museum and the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. For one year only, the two projects were awarded £10,000 each.

The Art Fund Prize 2012 and the Clore Award 2012 are open to all museums and galleries in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The deadline is **1 December 2011**. For full guidance and application forms, please visit: www.artfundprize.org.uk.

Ends

Notes to Editors

The Art Fund Prize

The Art Fund Prize is administered by The Museum Prize, a charitable company created in 2001 by representatives of National Heritage, the Museums Association, the Art Fund and the Campaign for Museums. These organisations agreed to put aside award schemes they formerly ran (including National Heritage's Museum of the Year) and lend their support to this single major prize.

The Sponsors

The Art Fund is the national fundraising charity, helping UK museums and galleries to buy, show and share art. It offers many ways of enjoying art through the National Art Pass which gives free entry to over 200 museums, galleries and historic houses across the country as well as 50% off major exhibitions. Over the past 5 years, the Art Fund has given £24 million to 248 museums and galleries to buy art. It also sponsors the UK tour of the ARTIST ROOMS collection – reaching several million people each year, and fundraises: recent campaigns include bringing in £6 million to save the Staffordshire Hoard for the West Midlands and Brueghel the Younger's *The Procession to Calvary* for Nostell Priory. It is funded entirely by its 85,000 supporters who believe great art should be for everyone to enjoy. Find out more about the Art Fund and how to buy a National Art Pass at www.artfund.org.

The Clore Duffield Foundation is chaired by Dame Vivien Duffield DBE and has a strong focus on supporting cultural learning, particularly within museums and galleries and at heritage sites: www.cloreduffield.org.uk. It is one of the founding partners of the Cultural Learning Alliance, a collective voice working to ensure that all children and young people have meaningful access to culture in this difficult economic climate: www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk.