



Press release

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2013 MUSEUM OF THE YEAR JUDGES ANNOUNCED

- **Judging panel includes Sarah Crompton, Bettany Hughes, Tristram Hunt MP and artist Bob and Roberta Smith**
- **£100,000 prize celebrates the very best of UK museums and galleries**
- **Search is on for Museum of the Year as application process opens 2 January 2013**
- **10 Finalist museums to be announced early April**

The Art Fund has announced the judging panel for the 2013 Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year. Chaired by Art Fund director Stephen Deuchar, the panel includes the Daily Telegraph's Arts Editor Sarah Crompton, writer and broadcaster Bettany Hughes, historian Tristram Hunt MP and the artist Bob and Roberta Smith.

Once the ten Finalist museums are announced to the public in early April, the judging panel will journey the UK to visit the ten museums and to experience the ways in which they use their collections to tell stories and histories, inspire their visitors, and create opportunities for reflection, illumination and fun.

The Museum of the Year award of £100,000 will go to the museum which, across all of its activities, demonstrates the most innovative and remarkable approach - from exhibitions, acquisitions and conservation, to education, outreach and the imaginative use of new technology and digital media.

An additional prize of £10,000, the Clore Award for Learning, will be awarded to one of the ten museum Finalists. The Clore Award has a focus on work with children and young people and celebrates the best of museum and gallery learning in any setting, in or out of school or college.

Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund Director, said: "UK museums play a vital part in the cultural lives of some 40 million visitors per year. They are amongst the most creative and much-loved institutions in countless towns and cities across the country. The £100,000 prize for Museum of the Year is an important way of drawing attention to, and encouraging, the exceptional achievements of this leading branch of the UK's creative industries."

Bob and Roberta Smith, artist, said: "I am really eager to visit museums that are old friends and discover spaces and collections I don't know. The Art Fund does amazing work to highlight the fundamental

importance of art in what is becoming a very difficult time for culture. Through art we can fall in love across generations with people and ideas and be spurred on to inspire others.”

Tristram Hunt, MP and historian, said: “British museums stand amongst the best in the world and I am looking forward to seeing how they are combining scholarship, innovation, outreach and interpretation in an age of austerity. These are difficult times so it is more important than ever that communities are able to access local cultural institutions, and I am looking forward to seeing the best they can offer.”

Bettany Hughes, writer and broadcaster, said: “One of the many things that makes me proud to be British is our unabashed love of history, of heritage and the lives of others. All over the UK are collections and institutions that incarnate that passion. To spend some consolidated time discovering new museums and re-visiting old favourites is pretty much my idea of heaven.”

Sarah Crompton, Daily Telegraph Arts Editor, said: "I spend a lot of my time in museums and have learnt a lot from them so I am thrilled to be one of the judges on this year's Art Fund Prize Museum of the Year - and look forward to what I might discover."

The Prize is open to all museums and galleries in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man who are part of the Accreditation Scheme operated by Arts Council England/Museums and Galleries Scotland.

The first phase application process concludes on Wednesday 6th February. For applications forms and further information on application criteria and how to apply please visit www.artfund.org/prize.

For further information please contact:

Caroline Hunt, Press Relations Manager, chunt@artund.org , 020 7225 4804

Lizzie Clark, Press Relations Manager, lclark@artfund.org, 020 7225 4804

Note to editors

About the Art Fund

The Art Fund is the national fundraising charity, helping museums to buy and show great art for everyone. Over the past 5 years we’ve given £24m to help over 200 museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections, from ancient sculpture and treasure hoards to Old Master paintings and contemporary commissions. We also support a range of programmes which promote museums and their collections to wider audiences, including the national tour of the ARTIST ROOMS collection, the Art Fund Prize which rewards and celebrates Museum of the Year, and our Art Guide, a pioneering smartphone app offering the most comprehensive guide to seeing art across the UK. We are independently funded, the majority of our income coming from 95,000 members who, through the National Art Pass, enjoy free and discounted entry to hundreds of museums, galleries and historic places across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions.

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Find out more about the Art Fund and the National Art Pass at www.artfund.org.

About the Clore Duffield Foundation

The Clore Duffield Foundation is a grant-making charity which concentrates its support on cultural learning, creating learning spaces within arts and heritage organisations, leadership training for the cultural and social sectors, social care, and enhancing Jewish life. The Foundation is chaired by Dame Vivien Duffield DBE. For full details go to www.cloreduffield.org.uk

The Clore Duffield Foundation is a supporter of the Cultural Learning Alliance, a collective voice working to ensure that all children and young people have access to culture.

www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk