

Kevin Fewster, Director of the National Maritime Museum, said:

“I am incredibly pleased to be able to unveil *Nelson’s Ship in a Bottle* in its new location outside our Sammy Ofer Wing. It is a fantastic addition to the National Maritime Museum’s world famous collections and I would like to thank all of the people, the GLA, the artist and Stephen Friedman Gallery who have helped us give this unique artwork a permanent home in Greenwich through their generous support. I am confident that our millions of visitors will get great pleasure from it for years to come”

Jon Snow, journalist and Fourth Plinth Commissioning Group member, said:

“It’s great news that Yinka Shonibare’s *Nelson’s Ship in a Bottle* has been secured for the National Maritime Museum. In one fell swoop this totemic sculpture brings together thoughts of empire, slavery, liberation, and the very fibre of our maritime heritage, adding a hugely important multi-cultural dimension to the museum’s message.”

Yinka Shonibare, MBE commented:

“I am absolutely delighted and touched by the public’s generosity. It is testimony to the importance of keeping *Nelson’s Ship in a Bottle* in the country. The piece was whole-heartedly embraced by the public while at Trafalgar Square and I am glad that the same affection for the work will continue at Greenwich.”

Stephen Friedman said:

“Uniting the contemporary and the historical, *Nelson’s Ship in a Bottle* is a poignant symbol of multiculturalism. As such, I am delighted that this seminal work will remain in London and has found a permanent home at the National Maritime Museum. The overwhelmingly positive response from the public has been a pleasure to behold and is testament to Yinka Shonibare’s success as a leading global artist.”

Notes to Editors

Funding Breakdown

£650,000: Total value of the work

£140,000: production costs already met for the Fourth Plinth programme

£97,500: 15% museum discount from Stephen Friedman Gallery

£50,000: Art Fund Grant

£264,300: Contributions from the public via the fundraising appeal

£49,100: National Maritime Museum contribution

£49,100: Matched contribution by Stephen Friedman Gallery and James Cohan Gallery, New York, on behalf of Yinka Shonibare, MBE

The Art Fund is the national charity which helps museums and galleries to buy, show and share art for the enjoyment of all. Over the past five years, the Art Fund has given over £24 million towards art of all kinds, from Old Masters to new media, and supported a range of programmes which share and show art to wider audiences, including the national tour of ARTIST ROOMS and the Art Fund Prize for museums. The Art Fund is independently funded and the majority of its income comes from 90,000 supporters who purchase a National Art Pass, costing from £50, which gives free entry to over 200 museums, galleries and historic houses across the country as well as 50% off many major exhibitions.

The **National Maritime Museum** is part of Royal Museums Greenwich, which holds the world's largest maritime collection. It is housed in historic buildings forming part of the Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site. It incorporates the National Maritime Museum, Royal Observatory Greenwich, and 17th century Queen's House. The museums work to illustrate for everyone the importance of the sea, ships, time and the stars and their relationship with people. Royal Museums Greenwich welcomes over 1.8 million British and international visitors a year and is also a major centre of education and research. For more information visit www.rmg.co.uk

The Fourth Plinth Programme is a key project delivered by the Mayor of London and is now recognised as the most high profile public art commission in Europe. As part of the Mayor's Cultural Strategy, the programme brings world class contemporary art to the heart of the city to unlock debate and discussion about London, contemporary art and public space. The Fourth Plinth Programme is funded in partnership with Cass Sculpture Foundation and with support from Arts Council England. Artists previously commissioned to make works for the plinth include Bill Woodrow, Antony Gormley, Thomas Schütte and Mark Quinn.

Yinka Shonibare, MBE was born in London and moved to Lagos, Nigeria at the age of three. He returned to London to study Fine Art first at Byam Shaw College of Art (now Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design) and then at Goldsmiths College, where he received his MFA, graduating as part of the Young British Artists generation. He currently lives and works in the East End of London. Over the past decade, Yinka Shonibare, MBE has become well known for his exploration of colonialism and post-colonialism within the contemporary context of globalisation. His work explores these issues, alongside those of race and class, through the media of paintings, sculpture, photography and, more recently, film and performance. Yinka Shonibare, MBE was a Turner Prize nominee in 2004 and awarded the decoration of Member of the Most Excellent order of the British Empire. He has added this title to his professional name. He has exhibited at the Venice Biennial and internationally at leading museums worldwide.

Stephen Friedman Gallery and Yinka Shonibare, MBE have worked together for 16 years. Stephen Friedman Gallery was established in 1995 and is now recognised amongst the leading international galleries in the field of contemporary art. The gallery represents both established and emerging artists working world-wide today.

Since it's inauguration the gallery has been based on Old Burlington Street in Central London. In 2005 it expanded, taking on adjacent premises designed by Caruso St John and in 2011 an additional gallery space was opened at No 11 Old Burlington St designed by David Kohn. The gallery hosts seven exhibitions each year alongside a project-based programme in the No 11. space. One person exhibitions and curated, group exhibitions are featured in the programme and have included the first exhibitions in the UK by leading artists such as; William Kentridge, Kara Walker, Beatriz Milhazes, Rivane Neuenschwander, Rudolf Stingel, Mira Schendel and Anne Truitt amongst others.

Cass Sculpture Foundation supports the Fourth Plinth programme and is a charitable foundation established in 1992 by Wilfred and Jeannette Cass, dedicated to commissioning new sculpture from emerging and established artists. The Foundation's 26 acre grounds are home to an ever-changing display of 80 monumental sculptures, all of which are for sale with the proceeds shared evenly between the artists and the foundation to invest in new commissions. By combining the best of philanthropic and commercial commissioning models, Cass Sculpture Foundation is able to continually commission and show new sculpture; to date the Foundation has produced over 400 sculptural works. For more information, please visit: www.sculpture.org.uk

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