

Stephen Deuchar, chair of the judges, said: "A perfect fusion of art and landscape, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park has gone from modest beginning to one of the finest outdoor museums one might ever imagine. In 2013 it really came of age – with art projects such as Yinka Shonibare's extraordinary exhibition; the fruits of the expansion and consolidation of the landscape on both sides of the lake; and with the conversion of the chapel to house (as its inaugural exhibition) a major new work by Ai Weiwei."

Announcing the winner, Sam Mendes said: "I'm genuinely honoured to have been asked to be a part of announcing this award. The dedication, love, and unbelievable creativity of the six candidates for the Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year are clear for all to see, as is the creative health of the UK Museum community as a whole. Financial health is a different matter, however -- and in that respect this award is a crucially important boost to one deserving organisation."

Peter Murray CBE, executive director of Yorkshire Sculpture Park, said: "We are so surprised and honoured to win this major award. It's extremely important to have the validation of our peers. This award is dedicated to our incredible staff, the artists with whom we're privileged to work so closely, and our truly wonderful visiting public."

Yorkshire Sculpture Park was chosen from a shortlist of six finalists: Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, East Sussex, Hayward Gallery, London, the Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich, Tate Britain, London, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield.

The panel of judges chaired by Art Fund director, Stephen Deuchar, were Sally Bacon, director of the Clore Duffield Foundation; Michael Craig-Martin RA, artist; Wim Pijbes director of the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; and Anna Somers Cocks, chief executive of *The Art Newspaper*.

[Download images of Yorkshire Sculpture Park](#)

[Download film of Yorkshire Sculpture Park, winner of the Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year 2014](#)

[Download images from the Winner Announcement Event – \(link live from 10pm, Wednesday 9 July 2014\)](#)

[Download film of Winner Announcement Event, with the Prize presented by Sam Mendes – \(link live from 1pm, Thursday 10 July 2014\)](#)

All information about Museum of the Year 2014 can be found at artfund.org/prize

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museum displays the starboard section of the flagship that served Henry VIII for 34 years before spending over 400 years buried under the Solent. For the first time, the ship has been reunited with the possessions of the crew and all the material of a Tudor warship. The Mary Rose and its unique collection of artefacts are now housed in an extraordinary and elegant museum, designed by Wilkinson Eyre Architects with Pringle Brandon Perkins+Will. The permanent exhibition engages visitors through the intensely personal nature of the objects and the stories they tell of the people on board, providing an inimitable insight into Tudor life. Everything in the museum is from one archaeological site, capturing the moment when the ship and most of its crew were lost.

Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich

Housed in a listed masterpiece of modern architecture, the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts is at once a public gallery of art and a centre for scholarship. Its collections, exhibitions and activities are driven by two core ideas: the Modern and World Art. In the last quarter of 2013 the Centre completed a two-year strategic plan that saw every aspect of the institution's functions transformed. Foster+Partners, the building's original architect, designed new facilities, which include the largest continuous space for temporary exhibitions in eastern England; superb new spaces for the permanent collections; two galleries themed around modern and contemporary art; and a new shop, café and leisure area. In September 2013 the Centre launched its new facilities with a complete redisplay of the permanent collection of over 500 works, and its largest and most ambitious exhibition to date, 'Masterpieces: Art and East Anglia'. The exhibition contained 280 works across all media and explored the artistic heritage of the region from prehistory to the present. In 2013 the Centre more than doubled its normal annual attendance.

Tate Britain, London

The new Tate Britain was unveiled to the public in 2013. The transformation of the oldest part of the Grade II* listed building by architects Caruso St John marked a significant moment for the gallery. In May 2013, following the refurbishment of nine galleries to 21st-century standards, the world's greatest collection of British art was represented in a new continuous chronological display: 'BP Walk through British Art'. The display now places well known favourites alongside less familiar artworks. Additionally 'BP Spotlight' collection displays were also introduced to offer more variety and depth on particular artworks, artists or themes. In November, the main entrance on Millbank reopened, combining newly created spaces around a new spiral staircase along with the restoration of some of the most beautiful original elements of the building. New learning studios and a dedicated schools' entrance and reception, together with the opening of the Rotunda's balcony as an elegant members' area, a new café, artist commissions and a new focus on the archive, have transformed the experience of the 1.5 million visitors who enjoy Tate Britain each year.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), Wakefield

Showing work by UK and international artists, including Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth, YSP seeks to provide a centre of international, national and regional importance for the exhibition and appreciation of modern and contemporary sculpture. 2013 was YSP's

busiest year ever with the presentation of world-class exhibitions by acclaimed artists such as Yinka Shonibare MBE, Amar Kanwar and Hans Josephsohn. The year also marked the momentous opening of Roger Hiorns' Seizure, 2008/2013, an important and stunning addition to the Park. Its innovative learning programme has gone from strength to strength with the introduction of the groundbreaking new project, Breathing Space, the successful pilot All Aboard and further development of Spark, Ignite and Vivify, all of which have been vital in engaging new audiences and providing a unique art experience for hard to reach groups. In improvements to YSP's 500-acre estate, restoration work was carried out on the Chapel and Dam Head Pump House.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year, awarded annually with a value of £100,000, was established in 2003 (formally the Gulbenkian Prize for museums and galleries 2003-2007) to recognise the very best of the UK's internationally acclaimed museums. It has been supported by the Art Fund since 2008. Previous winners include the William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow, London (2013); the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter (2012), and the British Museum, London (2011).

The Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art, helping museums to buy and show great art for everyone. With over 100,000 members, it raises and gives away millions of pounds each year to help museums buy works of art of all types and ages, and funds the development and training of curators. The Art Fund also supports the sector through advocacy work, fundraising, and marketing – guiding millions of museum visitors around the UK annually through the multi-platform Art Guide and the National Art Pass.