

PRESS RELEASE
13 December 2017

Continued investment in UK's curatorial talent with New Collecting Awards scheme

- *Grants worth £50,000 - 80,000 available to empower curators and allow museums to pursue new collecting interests*
- *Latest funding released includes special award for curators working in Scotland*

Art Fund announced today its continued commitment to the development of curators and the building of collections nationwide through its landmark programme, New Collecting Awards. Now in its fourth round, the awards enable the next generation of curators to build critical professional skills by pursuing new avenues of collecting for their museums. Applications for the latest round of the scheme are now being accepted until 13 February 2018, with winners and their funding announced in April 2018.

Stephen Deuchar, director of Art Fund, said: "Museum collections take on new life in the hands of visionary curators. However, research shows that the profession feels under threat from shortages in resources and growing responsibilities. New Collecting Awards allow some of the country's most promising talent to focus on one of the essential skills of being a curator and explore new prospects".

New Collecting Awards are open curators working with public collections. The programme responds to the need for ongoing collections development in UK museums, reinforced by curatorial experience, vision and ambition. Award recipients also receive a specific allocation dedicated to their own professional development, to spend on research, travel and training costs, plus the ongoing support of a mentor, Art Fund staff and trustees. This round of the programme includes a new award supported by the KMF Maxwell Stuart Charitable Trust for a curator working in a museum or gallery in Scotland.

Through New Collecting Awards, seventeen significant projects have been supported which innovate and expand the collections in museums, ranging from Brighton to Edinburgh. Projects have included the formation of a fine art collection of LGBT culture and history, a collection of work exploring war and the digital, a project focusing on contemporary performance art and an inspiring new collection of artists' moving image works.

Included in recent acquisitions are works purchased by Thomas Hockenhull,

Curator of Modern Money at the British Museum. The award is enabling Thomas to build a collection of numismatic material from socialist and former socialist governed-countries, working alongside his mentor on the scheme, Victor Buchli, Professor of Material Culture at University College London. Items acquired include Soviet posters advertising state banking services and a medal commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Thomas said: "This was a conduit to a whole new way of thinking for me, about what the term 'wealth' means to someone living under a planned economy and how, with a New Collecting Award, I could capture that meaning through material culture. Victor brought to the project boundless enthusiasm and genuine excitement about the project, how it could be shaped and how, in turn, the process might broaden my own experience and knowledge".

Recipients from round three include:

- Louise Stewart, Cross-Collections Curator at National Portrait Gallery has been awarded £40,000 to develop a collection that sheds new light on portrait history.
- Martin Goldberg, Senior Curator, early historic and Viking collections at National Museums Scotland, has been awarded £40,000 towards a research-driven collecting programme to deepen understanding of the museum's medieval Pictish holdings.
- Anna Rhodes, Assistant Collections Officer at Buxton Museum & Art Gallery has been awarded £40,000 to acquire 18th-century landscapes of Derbyshire on paper and in ceramics.
- Megan Barford, Curator of Cartography at Royal Museums Greenwich, London, has been awarded £50,000 to build a collection of contemporary cartographic material concerned with forced migration.
- Mark Doyle, Art Gallery Curator & Collections Manager at Touchstones Rochdale, has been awarded £65,000 to strengthen the existing holdings of work by female artists.
- Bronwen Colquhoun, Senior Curator of Photography, National Museums Wales, Cardiff, has been awarded £65,000 to collect work by American and European photographers working in South Wales between the 1950s and 1980s.

The fourth round of New Collecting Awards is made possible through the generous support of a consortium of funders including the Vivmar Foundation, KMF Maxwell Stuart Charitable Trust, the Wolfson Foundation and contributions from private individuals.

Deadline to apply is 13 February. www.artfund.org/newcollecting

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Notes to Editors:

Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. In the past five years alone Art Fund has given £34 million to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections. It also helps museums share their collections with wider audiences by supporting a range of tours and exhibitions, and makes additional grants to support the training and professional development of curators. Art Fund is independently funded, with the core of its income provided by 123,000 members who receive the National Art Pass and enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions and subscription to Art Quarterly magazine. In addition to grant-giving, Art Fund's support for museums includes Art Fund Museum of the Year (won by the The Hepworth Wakefield in 2017) and a range of digital platforms.

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