

## CAMPAIGN FOR MUSEUMS IMPACTED BY COVID-19 HITS £1M TARGET

- *As government provides extra funding for the arts, Art Fund is today announcing that it has passed its £1m crowdfunding target to help museums respond to the pandemic*
- *But museums will need sustained support and cannot reopen - which is the first step to recovery - until 17 May at the earliest*
- *For a limited time, art lovers can still purchase works by artists including Anish Kapoor and Cornelia Parker which will help Art Fund raise even more to help more museums*

Art Fund – the national charity for art – is today thanking generous museum lovers across the UK for donating £1m to help museums, galleries and historic houses respond to the impact of Covid-19. More than 4500 people have donated a total of £1,047,798 with gifts of all sizes to a cause they really care about – backing museums.

The public came together with leading British artists Jeremy Deller, Lubaina Himid, the estate of Howard Hodgkin, Anish Kapoor Michael Landy, Melanie Manchot, Cornelia Parker, David Shrigley and Supermundane, who all donated artworks made available as rewards for donations. The campaign was also backed by famous museum lovers such as Harry Hill and Russell Tovey, and supported by a major donation from The Headley Trust.

All funds raised will go directly to museums to help them adapt to the challenges arising from the pandemic and national lockdowns and is in addition to the £2.25m in emergency funding that the charity has already given to museums since summer 2020.

**Jenny Waldman, Art Fund director, said:** *“We are humbled that so many have put their hand in their own pocket at this time of uncertainty to help us pass our target of £1m. It will make a huge difference to museums who receive this funding later this year. Since we started this campaign museums have been forced to close again, and they cannot reopen until 17 May at the earliest. The government has just announced very welcome extra funding for the arts, and it’s great to see them listening and responding to what museums need. The reality is that reopening is only the first step on the road to recovery. So, we are keeping the campaign open for donations, with some brilliant rewards available. Thank you to all the generous donors and artists for supporting museums, which bring inspiration, reflection, and joy to so many.”*

Museums benefiting from funding to date include: the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham, for a year-long community project focused on health and wellbeing, including a nurse in residence who will use Barber’s collection to inform community healthcare; Novium Museum, Chichester, for developing virtual field trips for schools unable to visit; Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow to diversify their artistic content and network of artists; and Ceredigion Museum, Aberystwyth, to collect and display local community records of Covid-19 both virtually and physically.

# Art Fund\_

Additional museums, galleries and historic houses will be able to apply for a share of the £1m in the Spring.

The UK's 2,500 museums were thriving before the pandemic hit, providing inspiration, joy and education, enriching lives and bringing communities closer together. But national and local lockdowns, combined with social distancing limiting visitors, have been catastrophic.

60% of museums surveyed at the end of last year said they were worried about survival, and some are now facing permanent closure. Art Fund was only able to support 15% of the 451 museums which applied to its emergency funding last year, demonstrating why more funds were needed so urgently.

The government has today announced additional funding for the Culture Recovery Fund, a lifeline for many organisations. The continued support of the public combined with sustained investment will be key to ensuring as many museums as possible survive the crisis. It is not too late to donate to support museums at [artfund.org/together](http://artfund.org/together), with many artworks still available for a limited time.

**Sir Anish Kapoor said:** "Museums are where we go to engage with art, witness our psychic history and understand ourselves. Today they face great difficulty. The Art Fund campaign gives us an opportunity to help museums to continue to provide access to all in spite of the difficulties of this time."

Donations and purchases can still be made at: [www.artfund.org/together](http://www.artfund.org/together)

## **Full list of items still available in return for specific donations:**

- £25 David Shrigley set of tea towels
- £100 Michael Landy 'Look Around' print
- £400 Jeremy Deller limited-edition signed print
- £950 Howard Hodgkin limited-edition screen print
- £1500 Cornelia Parker limited-edition
- £4,000 Anish Kapoor limited-edition signed print

**ENDS**

## **Editors notes:**

- Images available at <https://artfund.getbynder.com/web/739910c1e95a85f6/t4m-press/>
- Research conducted by Opinium in November 2020, amongst 210 UK museums

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## **About Together for Museums**

Donations can be made at [www.artfund.org/together](http://www.artfund.org/together)

Follow the campaign at @artfund #TogetherForMuseums

## **About Art Fund**

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. In response to Covid-19 Art Fund has made £2 million in adapted funding available to support museums through reopening and beyond, including Respond and Reimagine grants to help meet immediate need and reimagine future ways of working. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by the 159,000 members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine. Art Fund also supports museums through its annual prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year. In a unique edition of the prize for 2020, Art Fund responded to the unprecedented challenges that all museums are facing by selecting five winners and increasing the prize money to £200,000. The winners are Aberdeen Art Gallery; Gairloch Museum; Science Museum; South London Gallery; and Towner Eastbourne [www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org)