



Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION

Art Fund_

PRESS RELEASE

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National treasures from UK's greatest collections loaned to local museums in 2021



From the glittering Galloway Hoard of treasure to an exceptional portrait of Richard III and works by leading artists Antony Gormley and Lucian Freud, world-class art and objects from national collections will be shared with smaller museums nationwide this year through the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund. Highlights include:

- The Galloway Hoard – the richest collection of rare Viking-age objects ever found in the UK – will be exhibited near the site of its discovery at Kirkcudbright Galleries, from National Museums Scotland
- The National Portrait Gallery's iconic portrait of Richard III will go on display at Yorkshire Museum
- Towner Eastbourne will display one of the most highly regarded paintings of the Great War, *Over the Top* (1918) by John Nash, loaned from the Imperial War Museum
- *Field for the British Isles* (1993) by Antony Gormley, which won the artist the Turner Prize, will be displayed at the National Glass Centre, Sunderland, on loan from the Arts Council Collection
- The poignant Lampedusa Cross will be loaned to Hastings Museum for an exhibition co-curated with local migrants

Created by the Garfield Weston Foundation and Art Fund, the Weston Loan Programme is the first UK-wide grant programme designed to directly fund and empower smaller museums to borrow major works from national or major lending museums and galleries. The scheme has dramatically boosted visitor numbers since it began in 2018 and widens access to objects from major collections for audiences across the country, all the more important as people stay local due to Covid-19 and museums look forward to welcoming visitors through their doors once again.

The Garfield Weston Foundation have committed over £1.5m to the Weston Loan Programme to date, and 51 museums have now received grants. Visitor numbers have increased on average by 40%, and in 2019 Nantgarw China Works Museum - a small museum in Wales dedicated to porcelain - saw a 372% rise in its year on year figures thanks to its exhibition featuring 20 original pieces of fine porcelain on loan from National Museum Wales.

18 exhibitions will open around the UK in 2021 with support through the Weston Loan Programme, representing funding of £320,000. They will bring fascinating stories to local communities, from the spectacular to the tragic.

Buried at the beginning of the 10th century in Dumfries and Galloway, the Galloway Hoard lay undisturbed for a thousand years before being unearthed by a metal detectorist in September 2014. The incredible discovery, comprised of more than 100 Viking Age objects, will be exhibited just ten miles from the original find site when it goes on loan to Kirkcudbright Galleries.

At Yorkshire Museum, the National Portrait Gallery's world-famous 16th century portrait of Richard III will be shown in an exhibition telling the story of his reign. The portrait is being loaned as part of the National Portrait Gallery's Coming Home project, which sees the Gallery lend portraits of iconic individuals to places across the UK with which they are most closely associated. Characterised by Shakespeare as a devious ruler, Richard III was the last king of the House of York, and his death in 1485 marked the end of the Middle Ages in England.

The Lampedusa Cross will be loaned by the British Museum to Hastings Museum and Art Gallery as one venue of a British Museum National Programmes UK tour. The cross is made from two pieces of a boat that was wrecked off the coast of Lampedusa, Italy, in 2013, causing the deaths of 311 Eritrean and Somali refugees. Moved by their plight, the island's carpenter made a cross for the survivors from the boat's wreckage. The cross will be displayed this autumn as part of a touring exhibition co-curated with local migrant and refugee groups.

Over the Top (1918) by John Nash, captures the artist's experience of trench warfare, specifically a 1917 attack in France where 68 of 80 men from Nash's battalion were killed within minutes. He was one of 12 spared by the shell-fire, and painted this picture three months later. Towner Eastbourne's exhibition featuring the painting will be the most comprehensive exhibition of Nash's work in over 50 years.

Antony Gormley's *Field for the British Isles* (1993) comprises 40,000 unique clay figures which completely occupy the space in which they are installed. The work has not been on view in the north east of England since 1996 and will be installed at the National Glass Centre by members of the local community.

Sophia Weston, Trustee of the Garfield Weston Foundation, said: *"This programme empowers smaller museums to bring fascinating art and objects to local audiences, where they can be experienced through the lens of regional history and heritage. We are delighted to support these important exhibitions this year, when we are all craving cultural experiences more than ever."*

Jenny Waldman, Director, Art Fund, said: *"Many of the exhibitions featuring these spectacular loans from national collections have been delayed by the pandemic, and the museums can't wait to open their doors and welcome visitors to see these national treasures. At a time when everyone is staying local, it's incredibly important for people to have access to great art and objects closer to home. Our heartfelt thanks to the Garfield Weston Foundation for their continued support through the Weston*

Loan Programme with Art Fund, who are enabling these ambitious and innovative museums to share our incredible collections more widely for everyone to see and enjoy.”

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery, said: *“I’m delighted that this famous portrait of Richard III will be displayed at the Yorkshire Museum this year as part of our Coming Home project. Access to our cherished national collections right around the UK is more important than ever as museums large and small work to overcome the catastrophic impact of Covid-19.”*

The Weston Loan programme also aims to strengthen the skills of museum professionals and distribute resources across the UK. The funding covers what can be prohibitive costs associated with displaying world-class works, for security, transport, installation and insurance.

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For downloadable press images, please go to:

<https://bibli.artfund.org/web/326662fad731a0d9/weston-loan-exhibitions-2021/>

The 18 exhibitions scheduled to open in 2021, supported through the Weston Loan Programme, include:

- **DANAD: Mavericks of Marden Hill:** Works by Sir Peter Blake and Robyn Denny, on loan from Ferens Gallery and the Government Art Collection, will feature in an exhibition on the Danad design collective who combined 1950s British art with new developments in the use of plastics to create pieces of functional furniture that were also genuine pieces of art.
Hertford Museum, Spring 2021
- **Portrayals:** An exhibition bringing 50 works by celebrated 20th century and contemporary artists to Banbury, Oxfordshire, from the Arts Council Collection. Spanning over 100 years, highlights include works by David Hockney, Barbara Hepworth, Chris Ofili and Howard Hodgkin.
Banbury Museum, until 6 June 2021
- **At the Water’s Edge:** Featuring important loans from National Museums Scotland, this exhibition brings together some earliest known tetrapod fossils in the world: the bones of Elginerpeton, discovered near Elgin, which are more than 375 million years old.
Elgin Museum, 27th March - 30th October 2021
- **MacDonald Sisters:** Bewdley Museum, Worcestershire, will display works on loan from Tate including Edward Burne-Jones’ *Clara von Bork*, as part of an exhibition about the Macdonald sisters, who had links to high-profile figures including painter Edward Burne-Jones and author Rudyard Kipling
Bewdley Museum, 17th April - 18th July 2021
- **Rubens to Sickert: The Study of Drawing:** Exploring Reading’s history as home to a pioneering art school through the University of Reading’s collection of drawings and key loans from national collections by Henry Moore and Leon Underwood
Reading Museum, 24th April - 7th August 2021
- **John Nash: The Landscape of Love and Solace:** The most comprehensive major exhibition in over 50 years of John Nash, one of the most versatile and prolific artists of the 20th century,

will be mounted by Towner Eastbourne with important loans from the Imperial War Museum, V&A, Manchester Art Gallery and Royal Academy

Towner Eastbourne, 1 May - 26 September 2021, touring to Compton Verney Art Gallery and Park 23 Oct 2021 - 2 January 2022

- **Ben Nicholson: From the Studio:** Paintings by Ben Nicholson are on loan from Tate and National Galleries of Scotland to Pallant House, Chichester for the first exhibition bringing together Nicholson's paintings, reliefs, prints and drawings alongside his rarely seen personal possessions and studio tools.
Pallant House, 26 June – 24 October 2021
- **Bracing Air, Abundant Amusements: The travel posters of Charles Pears:** The V&A and National Railway Museum loan works to Pontefract Museum, Wakefield, for an exhibition showcasing paintings and posters by renowned travel artist Charles Pears, known for his work to promote 1920s and 30s rail and ocean liner journeys
Pontefract Museum, 22 May 2021 - 25 February 2022
- **Landscape Portrait: Now and Then:** Hestercombe will welcome works by Andy Warhol, Derek Jarman and Gilbert and George to Somerset for the first time, on loan from the Courtauld Institute of Art and Arts Council Collection, for an exhibition exploring the links between landscape painting and portraiture through historic and contemporary artworks
Hestercombe Gallery, Spring 2021
- **An Unholy Trinity: Lucian Freud, John Minton and Adrian Ryan:** Works by painters Lucian Freud, John Minton and Adrian Ryan are on loan to Victoria Art Gallery, Bath from the Arts Council Collection, Tate, National Portrait Gallery and V&A for the first exhibition exploring the connections between these three painters, who were colleagues and friends
Victoria Art Gallery, 10 July – 19 September 2021 and Falmouth Art Gallery, 25 September – 23 November 2021
- **Antony Gormley: Field for the British Isles:** Bringing Gormley's 40,000 clay figures to the North East twenty five years after it was last shown in the region, with Sunderland Culture's Art Champions volunteering for the participatory installation
National Glass Centre, Sunderland, July – September 2021
- **The Galloway Hoard:** The incredible discovery of more than 100 Viking Age objects, will be exhibited just ten miles from the original find site
Kirkcudbright Galleries, 7 August 2021 – 2 May 2022
- **Laura Knight – A Celebration:** Penlee House and Gallery, Cornwall, will mount a major retrospective of Laura Knight celebrating the career of one of the twentieth century's most prolific British artists, bringing together over 60 works including landscapes, depictions of circus scenes and portrayals of marginalised communities
Penlee House and Gallery, 28 April – 11 September 2021
- **Richard III: Coming Home:** A world-famous 16th century painting of Richard III, which has become synonymous with the depiction of the king, will go on display at Yorkshire Museum on loan from the National Portrait Gallery as part of a new exhibition telling the story of his reign.
Yorkshire Museum, Summer 2021
- **Centuries in the making:** A major exhibition as part of the national festival (August 2021 to August 2022), *Grinling Gibbons 300: Carving a Place in History*, organised by the Grinling Gibbons Society to celebrate the life, genius and legacy of this extraordinary man.
Compton Verney, September 2021 - February 2022

- ***A British Museum Spotlight Loan, Crossings: community and refuge:*** Part of a British Museum National Programmes tour, an exhibition co-curated with local migrant and refugee groups featuring the Lampedusa Cross.
Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, 10 September – 5 December 2021
- ***Thomas Bateman:*** An ambitious exhibition to mark the bicentenary of the birth of the archaeologist and collector Thomas Bateman (1821-1861), a central figure across Sheffield's museums collections
Museums Sheffield, 24 September 2021 – 20 February 2022
- ***Eric Ravilious: Downland Man*** Works by Eric Ravilious from Tate and the V&A will be displayed in Devizes, Wiltshire Museum in a display exploring the fascination of iconic twentieth century watercolorist Eric Ravilious with the downland landscapes of Wiltshire and Sussex
Wiltshire Museum, 25 September 2021 – 30 January 2022
- The Galloway Hoard was acquired by National Museums Scotland in 2017 after a campaign supported by Art Fund to save it for the nation.

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

Garfield Weston Foundation

Established over 60 years ago in 1958, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded, grant-making charity which supports causes across the UK and gave over £88million last year. It has donated well over £1billion to charities since it was established.

One of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder and they take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation's funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Twinings, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc) and Fortnum & Mason, amongst others – a successful model that still endures today; as the businesses have grown, so too have the charitable donations.

From small community organisations to large national institutions, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities and activities that make a positive impact in the communities in which they work. Around 2,000 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation's grants.

The British Museum's National Programmes

The British Museum has a national presence, working with hundreds of partner organisations across the UK each year through its wide-ranging National Programmes activity. This includes single-object Spotlight Loan tours, touring exhibitions, Partnership Galleries, as well as both short-term and long-term loans, with the lead support of the Dorset Foundation in memory of Harry M Weinrebe. In 2019/20, over 2,800 objects were loaned to 105 venues in the UK, reaching 10 million people outside London. National Programmes also facilitates knowledge exchange programmes and trainee schemes to help young people to break into the museum profession. The Museum will continue to develop partnerships across the UK as part of its commitment to sharing the collection as widely as possible.