

Stephen Deuchar, chair of the judges, said:

“2013 was a strong year, by any standards, for UK museums and it was no easy task to select a shortlist of six from an extraordinary body of applications. It is almost as if imaginative and innovative curatorship, combined with the highest standards of presentation, is no longer the exception but the rule. No wonder that the international reputation of UK museums is riding so high, and we’re delighted that the Museum of the Year will salute this through both the process of the competition and, of course, the £100,000 Prize.”

About the finalists and their 2013 achievements:

Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, East Sussex

The museum reopened in 2013 after a major redevelopment and now offers the rare experience of seeing objects in the village in which they were created. The museum holds a nationally important collection of the artists and craftspeople who lived and worked in Ditchling in the 20th century. With a small team of staff and volunteers and a very limited budget the museum has transformed itself by making a bold, yet informed, set of decisions. Working with Adam Richards Architects, the complex site and buildings have been reimagined and are now fully accessible and welcoming. A dedicated learning space celebrates creativity with an exciting programme for all ages. The museum is now a fitting home to celebrate Ditchling’s important place in the history of applied art and design.

www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk

Hayward Gallery, London

The Hayward Gallery is one of the world's most adventurous and innovative contemporary art galleries. 2013 was an exceptional year for the Hayward Gallery and Hayward Touring. Exhibitions addressed important issues in contemporary artistic practice, drawing creativity from neglected areas of art. Light Show attracted 190,000 visitors – many new - to the gallery whilst Alternative Guide to the Universe opened up collections of work rarely seen by the public and explored self taught artists, architects and fringe artists. Ana Mendieta: Traces and Dayanita Singh: Go Away Closer both brought crucial areas of current and recent artistic practice to London for the first time.

In 2013, four highly eclectic Hayward Touring exhibitions, All That Is Solid Melts Into Air curated by Jeremy Deller and The Universal Addressability of Dumb Things curated by Mark Leckey plus two Arts Council Collection exhibitions, Grayson Perry: The Vanity of Small Differences and Uncommon Ground: Land Art in Britain, 1966-1979 brought

national critical attention. In the single year of 2013, the Centre more than doubled its normal annual attendance.

www.scva.ac.uk

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: the *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.

www.tate.org.uk

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 YSP Chapel and Dam Head Pump House. Both buildings will reopen to the public in 2014.

www.ysp.co.uk

museums and galleries throughout the country, and the £100,000 Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year – an annual celebration of the best of UK museums, won in 2013 by William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. We are independently funded, the majority of our income coming from over 100,000 members who, through the National Art Pass, enjoy free entry to over 220 museums, galleries and historic houses across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions.