

PRESS RELEASE  
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## Artist Isaac Julien appointed Art Fund trustee

Art Fund's trustees announce the appointment of Isaac Julien, one of the UK's leading artists, to the board. The appointment is for five years.

Isaac Julien was born in 1960 in London, where he currently lives and works. His multi-screen film installations and photographs incorporate different artistic disciplines to create a poetic and unique visual language. His 1989 documentary-drama exploring author Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance titled *Looking for Langston* garnered Julien a cult following while his 1991 debut feature *Young Soul Rebels* won the Semaine de la Critique prize at the Cannes Film Festival. Isaac Julien has exhibited in the 7th Gwangju Biennial, South Korea (2008); Prospect 1, New Orleans (2008); and Performa 07, New York. He has had solo exhibitions at: the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Boston (2011); L'Atelier Hermès, Seoul (2011); Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo (2011); The Bass Museum, Miami (2010); Helsinki Festival, Kunsthalle Helsinki (2010); Museum Brandhorst, Munich (2008); Kestnergesellschaft, Hannover, (2006) Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2005); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2005); and Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2005). Julien first participated in the Venice Biennale in 2009 and returned to present KAPITAL Oratorio in the 56th edition in 2015. His work is held in collections including: Tate, London; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC.

Art Fund helps museums buy works of art, supports curatorial projects and encourages people to see and enjoy art in public collections across the UK. It is funded by over 123,000 members, with a charitable programme with a value of £11.2m in 2015. Isaac Julien is appointed to the board at a time when UK museums are increasingly seeking Art Fund grants for contemporary acquisitions and commissions. 40 per cent of Art Fund grants go towards contemporary works of art.

Art Fund's board of trustees oversees the effective working of the charity. They consider all applications from museums and galleries for grants towards the purchase of works of art and projects, and offers of gifts as well as bequests. The board includes: Lord Smith of Finsbury (Chairman), Jeremy Palmer (Treasurer), Caroline Butler, Richard Calvocoressi, Richard Deacon, Dame Liz Forgan, Philippa Glanville, Chris Gosden, Professor Antony Griffiths, Alastair Laing, James Lingwood, Sally Osman, Marcia Pointon, Axel Rüger, Lisa Tickner, and Michael G Wilson.

Isaac Julien said: "I feel honoured to be joining the board for Art Fund, a charity I have long admired for their commitment to growing public collections, and access to them, for everyone across the UK. I look forward to bringing my knowledge of contemporary art and artists film to the incredible expertise of the board."

Lord Smith of Finsbury, Chair of the board, said: "Art Fund trustees play a crucial role in ensuring that money we raise is used in the best possible way to support museums and galleries. Many of our grants go towards contemporary art acquisitions and projects, and we are working more closely with artists than ever before. It is wonderful to have such an esteemed artist join our board, and we know that Isaac will be a valuable addition to the board's skillset."

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Media enquiries: please contact:

Madeline Adeane, Press Relations Manager,  
on 020 7225 4804 or madeane@artfund.org  
or Rachel Mapplebeck, Director of Communications, on 0207 225 4820 or  
rmapplebeck@artfund.org

About 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 V&A, London, in 2016) and a range of digital platforms.

Notes to Editors:

Isaac Julien is a Turner prize nominated artist and filmmaker. Earlier works include *Young Soul Rebels* (1991), which was awarded the Semaine de la Critique Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, the acclaimed poetic documentary *Looking for Langston* (1989) and *Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Mask* (1996). Julien has pioneered a form of multi-screen installations with works such as *Western Union: Small Boats* (2007), *Ten Thousand Waves* (2010) and *Playtime: Kapital* (2014).

Julien was participant in the 56th Biennale di Venezia curated by Okwui Enwezor (2015). He has exhibited his work in major museums and institutions across the world including the nine screen of *Ten Thousand Waves* at Museum of Modern Art, New York, at Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris, and more recently *Playtime* and *Kapital* at El Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo in Mexico City. Julien's work is included in the collections of institutions around the globe. In 2013, a monographic survey of his career to date, *Riot*, was published by MoMA, NY.

Julien is currently producing a new work that is a poetic meditation on aspects of the life and architecture of Lina Bo Bardi, entitled *7 Songs for Lina Bo Bardi*. The first chapter of this work, *Stones Against Diamonds*, was shown during 2015's La Biennale di Venezia, Art Basel and Art Basel Miami Beach. Julien was Chair of

Global Art at University of Arts London (2014-2016) and is the recent recipient of the the 83rd James Robert Brudner Memorial Prize and Lecture at Yale University (2016).

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