

Art Fund_

PRESS RELEASE
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Over £500,000 to help museums outside London buy and commission contemporary artists' film and video

- Bristol Museum & Art Gallery and The Hunterian to spend £200,000 as part of Art Fund's Moving Image Fund scheme
- Turner Prize winning artist Elizabeth Price's film 'K' (2015) bought by Whitworth, Manchester
- New partnership with Film and Video Umbrella to produce new commissions for four museums

Art Fund announces today that Bristol Museum & Art Gallery and The Hunterian, Glasgow, will join its Moving Image Fund scheme to build their collections of artists' film and video over the next two years with a budget of £200,000 each.

The Moving Image Fund is specifically designed to help museums and galleries across the UK collect and share with audiences the work of contemporary artists working with digital media, video and film.

Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne, and the Whitworth, Manchester, who joined the pilot scheme in 2015, will remain as participants in an expanded portfolio of organisations, with the Whitworth announcing its latest acquisition through the Moving Image Fund: 'K', a two-channel video work that celebrates the manufacturing and marketing of women's hosiery – K tights and stockings being a well-known brand in the 1960s and 70s – juxtaposed with professional mourners.

A new partnership with Film and Video Umbrella (FVU) will enable all four participating museums to commission new moving image works over the next four years. Together, FVU and Art Fund will provide over £40,000 for each museum to commission a new work for their respective collections – supported by FVU's longstanding curatorial and production expertise. These works will then join each organisation's collection with exhibitions and displays of the new works to be announced.

Art Fund's Moving Image Fund is generously supported by Thomas Dane Gallery, The Rothschild Foundation and the Sfumato Foundation together with the galleries who support Art Fund's Contemporary Fund including, Hauser & Wirth, Maureen Paley, Nicholas Logsdail and the Lisson Gallery, Sadie Coles, Victoria Miro and White Cube.

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Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund director, said: "Our Moving Image Fund is helping UK museums and galleries to acquire important works in film and video, giving more people access to this increasingly important medium. We thank the generous supporters who have made this possible, and look forward to seeing what Bristol Museum & Art Gallery and the Hunterian acquire."

Elizabeth Price, artist, said: "I'm very honoured that my work K will be owned by the Whitworth. It's hard to think of a collection and location more relevant to the subject matters of the work: weaving, storytelling, singing and dancing, than Manchester's Whitworth. Over recent years I have been fortunate to have spent time there and become familiar with its collection and atmosphere – both welcoming and serious. K is a work that tries to do that too, so I am very happy to know it will be there."

Steven Bode, Film and Video Umbrella director, added: "We are delighted to be working with Art Fund on this new phase of the Moving Image Fund. As artists' work with the moving image gains ever-greater prominence within the contemporary visual arts, this initiative will ensure that it has an increased presence in museum collections across the country. We look forward to working with the curators at the four museums, and to developing four new artworks out of this creative, collaborative dialogue."

Julia Carver, Curator Modern and Contemporary Art, Bristol Museum & Art Gallery said: "We are thrilled to be part of this scheme, it is a fantastic opportunity for Bristol to really grow its moving image collection and we are especially looking forward to working with the Art Fund and Film and Video Umbrella to develop a new commission."

Steph Scholten, director at The Hunterian said: "The Hunterian is delighted to be among the organisations supported by the Moving Image Fund. We are extremely grateful to the Art Fund and its partners for this award which will allow us to expand our world-class collections and further deepen our engagement with contemporary art."

Works acquired to date through the Moving Image Fund include: Isaac Julien's Ten Thousand Waves (2010) jointly acquired by Towner Art Gallery and the Whitworth and Omer Fast's 5,000 Feet is Best (2011) jointly acquired by Towner Art Gallery and IWM.

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Notes to Editors:

Moving Image Fund

Launched in 2015, the Moving Image Fund is a scheme conceived by the Art Fund in partnership with Thomas Dane Gallery to respond to the challenges faced by UK museums in building their collections of moving image works. As artists' use of digital media, video and film continues to increase, so does the desire of museums and galleries to reflect this growing body of work in their collections and to share it with the public. In the current climate, museums and galleries struggle to raise funds for new acquisitions of any kind, of which artists' film and video pose an even greater challenge as they are expensive to produce and technically complex to exhibit. The Moving Image Fund addresses this growing need by empowering museums to secure impactful and relevant works

About 'K' by Elizabeth Price

'K' (2015) is a two-channel video work that celebrates on the manufacturing and marketing of women's hosiery – K tights and stockings being a well-known brand in the 1960s and 70s. The images of the loom, the packaging machines, the spinning of Nylon fibres and the legendary long hair on pop singer Crystal Gale are juxtaposed with the stories of professional mourners, their dances and their lamentations. The video makes reference to Price's earlier work "Sunlight", making use again of nineteenth century photos of the sun that are animated into a spinning orb on one of the screens.

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 www.artfund.org

Film and Video Umbrella

Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents artists' moving-image works that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced nearly 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions. fvu.co.uk

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery tells the story of our world in every display, from the beginning of time to the present day. Located in the heart of the city in a beautiful Grade II listed Edwardian building, 20 galleries showcase Bristol's world-class collections of art, natural history, Egyptology, archaeology and more. Designated collections are geology, Eastern art and Bristol's history, including English delftware. A programme of temporary exhibitions take place throughout the year, which currently includes Pliosaurus!, Radical Clay and Empire Through the Lens. Bristol has recently been named Museum Destination of the Year 2018 and UNESCO City of Film. bristolmuseums.org.uk

The Hunterian

The Hunterian is one of the world's leading University museums and one of Scotland's greatest cultural assets. Built on Dr William Hunter's founding bequest, The Hunterian collections include scientific instruments used by James Watt, Joseph Lister and Lord Kelvin; outstanding Roman artefacts from the Antonine Wall; major natural and life sciences holdings; Hunter's own extensive anatomical teaching collection; one of the world's greatest numismatic collections and impressive ethnographic objects from Captain Cook's Pacific voyages.

The Hunterian is home to one of the most distinguished public art collections in Scotland and features the world's largest permanent display of the work of James McNeill Whistler, the largest single holding of the work of Scottish artist, architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868–1928) and The Mackintosh House, the reassembled interiors from his Glasgow home.

The Hunterian has also developed an important collection of works by leading contemporary artists including Lucy Skaer, Ilana Halperin, Mat Collishaw, Mark Dion and Christine Borland. glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian

Towner Art Gallery

Founded in 1922 as an art gallery for the people, Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne presents exhibitions of national and international importance to audiences across the UK and beyond. Showcasing the most exciting developments in modern and contemporary art, Towner develops and supports artistic practice, and provides a place for experiencing, creating and discussing art and culture. The gallery welcomes over 140,000 visitors a year and collaborates with individuals, communities and organisations to deliver an inclusive and accessible associated public programme and learning offer. Their acclaimed Collection of 4500 works is best known for its modern British art – including the largest and most significant body of work by Eric Ravilious (1903-1942) – and a growing collection of international contemporary art. In 2014, Towner became an independent charitable Trust, supported by a Board of Trustees, chaired by David Dimbleby. Towner is supported by Eastbourne Borough Council and Arts Council England through its National Portfolio Programme. www.townereastbourne.org.uk

The Whitworth

The Whitworth is part of The University of Manchester. It is home to internationally renowned collections of modern art, textiles, watercolours, prints, drawings and sculpture. Created in 1889 as the first English gallery in a park, the Whitworth has developed a new vision for the role of a university gallery. A creative laboratory within an ambitious university, the Whitworth is a place where good, unusual things happen. The Whitworth re-opened to the public on 14 February 2015 after a major £15 million redevelopment by architects MUMA. The Whitworth has welcomed over 1,000,000 since re-opening, and more than doubled its previous annual records. The redevelopment has doubled public space and created state-of-the-art new facilities including expanded gallery spaces, a study centre, learning studio, and a collections centre. The Whitworth redevelopment is just one part of an ambitious Campus Masterplan that will see The University of Manchester invest over £1 billion to create a world class campus for staff, students and visitors. The gallery was crowned Art Fund Museum of Year 2015, nominated for the prestigious Stirling Prize, named Best Emerging Cultural Destination in Europe, and Large Visitor Attraction of the Year by Visit England, continuing to establish itself as a leading cultural destination and housing an internationally significant collection of art. www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth