

UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY 5 JULY AT 10.00PM

PRESS RELEASE

05 July 2018

TATE ST IVES WINS £100,000 ART FUND MUSEUM OF THE YEAR 2018

This evening (5 July 2018), Tate St Ives was announced as Art Fund Museum of the Year 2018, the largest and most prestigious museum prize in the world. Anne Barlow, Director of Tate St Ives, was presented with the £100,000 prize by artist Isaac Julien and the 'world's best teacher' Andria Zafirakou at an award ceremony at the V&A, London.

The winner was chosen from five finalists: Brooklands Museum (Weybridge), Ferens Art Gallery (Hull), Glasgow Women's Library, The Postal Museum (London) and Tate St Ives (Cornwall). Each of the other finalist museums received a £10,000 prize in recognition of their achievements.

Among the 400 guests at the dinner hosted by Stephen Deuchar, director, Art Fund were:

Artists: Ron Arad, David Batchelor, Mat Collishaw, Michael Craig-Martin, Roger Hiorns, Gary Hume, Chantal Joffe, Isaac Julien, Ben Langlands and Nikki Bell, Lawrence Lek, Peter Liversidge, Junko Mori, Humphrey Ocean, Cornelia Parker, Grayson Perry, Gerald Scarfe, Yinka Shonibare, Bob & Roberta Smith, Linder Sterling, Mitra Tabrizian, Gavin Turk, Gillian Wearing, Stephen Willats and Bill Woodrow.

Arts leaders: Maria Balshaw, Peter Bazalgette, Iwona Blazwick, Nicholas Cullinan, Michael Ellis MP, Alex Farquharson, Gabriele Finaldi, Tristram Hunt, Jay Jopling, Diane Lees, Jonathan Marsden, Nick Merriman, Munira Mirza, Frances Morris, Maureen Paley, Axel Rüger, Ralph Rugoff, and Nicholas Serota.

The biggest museum prize in the world, Art Fund Museum of the Year seeks out and celebrate innovation, imagination and exceptional achievement in museums and galleries across the UK. The judges award £100,000 to one outstanding winner and £10,000 to each other finalist.

The judges for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2018 were: Ian Blatchford, director of the Science Museum Group; Stephen Deuchar, Director, Art Fund (chair); Rebecca Jones, BBC arts correspondent; Melanie Manchot, artist; and Monisha Shah, independent media consultant and Art Fund trustee.

Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund director and chair of the judges, said: 'Tate St Ives tells the story of the artists who have lived and worked in Cornwall in an international context. The new extension to the gallery is deeply intelligent and breathtakingly beautiful, providing the perfect stage for a curatorial programme that is at once adventurous, inclusive and provocative. The judges admired an architect and gallery team who devoted some 12 years to this transformational change, consulting with the local community all the way.'

Judge Melanie Manchot, said, 'As soon as I walked into Tate St Ives I had an amazingly strong feeling that they're doing something innovative. I've visited before, but now the whole building, the galleries, the views all feel different - they have been given a new lease of life. The extension has not so much been an addition as a complete re-imagining. I was deeply impressed by the passion and knowledge of their guides to the collection and exhibition – all local to the gallery. Though they were closed for 18 months during their redevelopment they kept their members, which I feel speaks to a sense of belonging and a new Tate St Ives so much more embedded in its community. For me, it was a profound experience.'

WINNING MUSEUM

Tate St Ives

Celebrating the important contribution of 20th-century artists who lived and worked in Cornwall, Tate St Ives reopened in October 2017 following a £20 million refurbishment of its galleries and the addition of an elegant new extension by architect Jamie Fobert, which has since hosted exhibitions dedicated to Rebecca Warren, Virginia Woolf and Patrick Heron. An impressive 11,000 visitors attended the opening weekend. New spaces for display and learning have opened up the collection and the archives, allowing year-round access for the first time to works by artists who were inspired by the unique qualities of Cornwall's light and landscape - including Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson and Peter Lanyon, as well as international figures Piet Mondrian, Naum Gabo and Paule Vézelay. A renewed engagement with the local community, who played a central role in the 12-year consultation which informed the gallery's architectural scheme, has meant that more than 7,000 people have registered for the new annual St Ives Locals Pass.

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Notes to Editors:

Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. In the past five years alone it 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 139,000 members who receive the National Art Pass and enjoy free entry to over 320 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 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

The Art Fund Museum of the Year 2018 finalists were:

Brooklands Museum, Weybridge

Brooklands was the world's first purpose-built motor racing circuit, home to the most important British pre-Second World War motorsport events, and the most prolific aircraft manufacturing site in Europe. The museum recently completed the most radical development of its historic site since opening 27 years ago. It has transformed its Grade II-listed Bellman hangar into the Brooklands Aircraft Factory and constructed a new Flight Shed to tell the story of 80 years of aviation design, testing and manufacture on the Brooklands site, from the early pioneers to the supersonic Concorde. Visitors to the museum are immersed in historic buildings which house an extensive collection relating to the pre-war years when Brooklands was the preeminent motor racing venue in Britain and a key part of the society calendar. The Race Track's Finishing Straight was restored in 2017 and on event days the atmosphere is of Brooklands' heyday comes alive as vintage cars are again put through their paces. Along with all this, the museum explores some of the critical developments of the 20th century in engineering, air travel, industry and society and inspires young people to consider careers in science and engineering.

Ferens Art Gallery, Hull

As Hull celebrated UK City of Culture in 2017, the Ferens Art Gallery was at its very heart. The building and collection, founded by local industrialist TR Ferens in 1927, has recently undergone a £5.2 million refurbishment of the galleries and a complete rehang of the collection in time for its January 2017 reopening. Major loans of works by artists from JMW Turner to Francis Bacon were displayed alongside contemporary works – such as the photographs documenting Spencer Tunick’s 2016 commission Sea of Hull - and the gallery hosted the Turner Prize for the first time. As a result, last year the gallery more than trebled its visitor figures to welcome over 500,000 people from Hull and beyond. The gallery also trialled a new digital submission process for its annual Open Exhibition, and, to help grow the audiences of the future, opened a space dedicated to exploring art with families and under-fives.

Glasgow Women’s Library

The UK’s only accredited museum dedicated to women’s history, Glasgow Women’s Library (GWL) was established 26 years ago in a small shopfront with no funding, and has grown into a multi-award-winning resource, recently completing a £1.8m refurbishment of its Grade B listed building in the east end of the city. Its 25th-anniversary programme raised the museum’s profile to the extent that visitor numbers doubled. All the exhibits, from suffragette memorabilia to knitting patterns, have been donated, and local women from diverse communities are part of a project involving Community Curators to create new permanent displays following renovations. GWL has also commissioned artists to develop new work responding to the collection – Linder Sterling’s GWL project launched this year’s Glasgow International Festival of Visual Arts – and they are developing work on equality and social inclusion that can be shared with other museums.

The Postal Museum

Telling the social history of one of Britain’s most famous inventions, the post, The Postal Museum has transformed from an archive with 3,000 visitors to a national museum looking at the impact of mail on our society; the story of the earliest social network. Since opening six months ago, 75,000 visitors have poured through the doors to explore the museum’s two interactive exhibition galleries, dedicated learning space and discovery room, and Mail Rail: a subterranean train ride that follows London’s 100-year-old underground postal rail network. The museum’s remarkable and quirky collections, which span five centuries, include the Royal Mail Archive, postal uniforms, pillar boxes, postal vehicles, and a huge collection of stamps.

About Art Fund Museum of the Year

Art Fund Museum of the Year is awarded annually to a truly visionary organisation – one that readily rethinks established ways of working, and offers great quality and ingenuity in all its activities. Art Fund has supported Museum of the Year since 2008. Its forerunner was the Prize for Museums and Galleries, administered by the Museum Prize Trust and sponsored by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation from 2003-2007. The prize champions what museums do, encourages more people to visit and gets to the heart of what makes a truly outstanding public facility. The judges present the prize to the museum or gallery that has shown how their achievements of the preceding year stand out, demonstrated what makes their work innovative, and the impact it has had on audiences. These achievements might include:

- Bold and imaginative exhibitions, collection displays or collection conservation projects

Art Fund_

- Learning programmes that have developed the skills, knowledge and enjoyment of children, young people and adults in new ways
- Exceptional acquisitions that have had a real impact on the museum and its audiences
- Audience engagement, diversity or access initiatives that have greatly broadened participation, and creative use of technology or digital media
- Substantial programmes of modernisation, reorganisation or reinterpretation that have had a transformative impact
- New building, refurbishments or reinventions of existing spaces that have had a strong impact on the museum and its audiences

Winners over the past seven years were: the Hepworth Wakefield (2017); V&A (2016); the Whitworth (2015); Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2014); William Morris Gallery (2013); Royal Albert Memorial Museum (2012); and the British Museum (2011).