

PRESS RELEASE

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Art Fund announces latest winners of New Collecting Awards

- *£300,000 to support talented curators to build new collections for their museums*
- *Projects range from collecting currencies of conflict to strengthening holdings of work by black artists*
- *Mentors for the curators include Turner Prize-winning artist Lubaina Himid*

Art Fund announced today the next six winners of its New Collecting Awards programme, which invests in the development of some of the UK's curatorial rising stars. The winning proposals include the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, in acquiring currencies of conflict and dissent and a project by Glasgow Museums to strengthen its holdings of work by black artists, exploring race, diversity and the slave trade.

Now in its fourth year, the programme responds to the need for ongoing collections development in museums, underpinned by curatorial experience, vision and ambition. Award recipients receive a budget for acquisitions, a specific funding allocation dedicated to their own professional development, to spend on research, travel and training costs, plus the ongoing support of Art Fund staff, trustees, and a mentor.

The fourth round of New Collecting Awards is made possible through the generous support of a consortium of funders including the Vivmar Foundation, the Wolfson Foundation, KMF Maxwell Stuart Charitable Trust and contributions from private individuals.

This latest round of funding, totalling over £300,000, includes a ring-fenced amount for curators working in museums and galleries in Scotland with support from the KMF Maxwell Stuart Charitable Trust. The two collecting projects supported by this special funding are from Glasgow Museums in Glasgow and National Museums Scotland in Edinburgh.

Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund director said, "Museum collections can take on new life in the hands of visionary staff, and the New Collecting Awards aim to help UK museums by offering a unique opportunity to their most promising and adventurous curators"

The 2018 winners are:

- Isabel Seligman, Bridget Riley Art Foundation Curator at the British Museum, London has been awarded £50,000 to acquire drawings by emerging British artists.
- Danielle Thom, Curator of Making at the Museum of London has been awarded £65,000 to build a collection of work reflecting the relationship between craft and design within the context of the cultural and economic life of modern London.
- Richard Kelleher, Assistant Keeper at Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge has been awarded £40,000 to collect currencies of conflict and dissent from the past 500 years.
- Lena Fritsch, Curator, Modern Contemporary Art at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford has been awarded £55,000 to acquire Neo-Expressionist prints and drawings.
- Lisa Mason, Assistant Curator, Modern & Contemporary Design at National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh has been awarded £22,000 to develop a collection of modernist textiles with a focus on Scottish designers, Scottish textile heritage and national identity.
- Tiffany Boyle and Jessica Carden, Independent Curators, Mother Tongue, supported by Glasgow Museums, Glasgow have been awarded £70,000 towards acquiring works by black artists, addressing the gaps in Glasgow Museums' holdings, exploring issues of race and diversity, and confronting Glasgow's role in the Transatlantic slave trade.

Mentors, respectively, include:

- Katharine Stout, Deputy Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts
- Alun Graves, Senior Curator at the V&A
- Dan Hicks, Curator of Archaeology at the Pitt Rivers Museum.
- Andrea Schlieker, Director of Commissions and Special Projects at the White Cube Gallery
- Textile historian, Mary Schoeser
- Lubaina Himid, artist and Professor of Contemporary Art at the University of Central Lancashire

Today's announcement follows on from three previous rounds, meaning that since 2014 23 curators have benefitted through the scheme, developing collections within their institutions. Awards through the scheme now total over £1.3 million.

Recent acquisitions by previous New Collecting Awards recipients include:

One of the most recent acquisitions was made by Sara Bevan, Curator of Contemporary Art at IWM London (Imperial War Museums). As one of the first New Collecting Awards'

winners in 2014, she was awarded £80,000 to build a collection of work exploring the theme of war and the digital. Her latest acquisition is Thomson and Craighead's *A Short film about War*, a narrative documentary made from information found on the web. This two-screen installation takes viewers around the world to a variety of war zones as seen through the collective eyes of Flickr, and as witnessed by a variety of military and civilian bloggers.

Megan Barford, Curator of Cartography at Royal Museums Greenwich has made her first acquisition: *Skart Maps*, a collection of ten maps by Serbian artist Djorđe Balmazović. Selected as part of the third round of the scheme, Megan was awarded £50,000 towards acquiring contemporary cartographic material concerned with forced migration. The ten *Skart Maps* document the journeys of refugees to Europe, evoking a range of experiences from persecution and violence to friendship and solidarity. Balmazović created the maps following a number of interviews with refugees at the Bogovada Reception Centre in Serbia, and the resulting works are a respectful, dignified re-telling of the journeys undertaken by people forced to leave their homes.

Forthcoming displays on works of art and objects acquired through the scheme include:

In the scheme's first year, Hannah Jackson, previously Assistant Curator of Fashion & Textiles for The Bowes Museum, County Durham, was awarded £60,000 to build a collection of French haute couture, in homage to the Museum's co-founder Joséphine Bowes. Recently, she made some striking acquisitions including an embroidered top and skirt from Dior's Spring/Summer 2017 couture collection. Purchased directly from the couture house, the ensemble forms part of Maria Grazia Chiuri's first designs as Artistic Director for the label. The custom-made garment will be on display at The Bowes' upcoming exhibition, *Catwalking*. This marks Hannah's final acquisition as part of the New Collecting Awards.

Mark Doyle, Art Gallery Curator & Collections Manager at Touchstones Rochdale was awarded £65,000 to strengthen the gallery's existing holdings of work by female artists. Two of his latest acquisitions: Jessica Rankin's *Silver Study* (2011) and Clare Kenny's *MG Montego 2014* (Heywood) will be on display as part of Touchstone Rochdale's exhibition *Herstory*. The exhibition will showcase works by leading female artists from the gallery's own collection along with works from the Collection of Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo.

www.artfund.org/newcollecting

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Notes to Editors:

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 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 British Museum

Founded in 1753, the British Museum was the first national public museum in the world. From the outset it was a museum of the world, for the world, and this idea still lies at the heart of the Museum's mission today. The collection tells the stories of cultures across the world, from the dawn of human history, over two million years ago, to the present. Objects range from the earliest tools made by humans and treasures from the ancient world to more recent acquisitions from Africa, Oceania and the Americas, the Middle East, Asia and Europe, as well as the national collections of prints and drawings, and coins and medals. In addition to work in London, the Museum takes part in an extensive programme of loans and tours, both across the UK and throughout the world.

Britishmuseum.org/

The Museum of London

The Museum of London tells the ever-changing story of this great world city and its people, from 450,000 BC to the present day. Our galleries, exhibitions, displays and activities seek to inspire a passion for London and provide a sense of the vibrancy that makes the city such a unique place.

The museum is open daily 10am – 6pm and is FREE to all, and you can explore the Museum of London with collections online – home to 90,000 objects with more being added. www.museumoflondon.org.uk

Fitzwilliam Museum

Founded in 1816 the Fitzwilliam Museum is the principal museum of the University of Cambridge and lead partner for the University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) Major Partner Museum programme, funded by The Arts Council. The Fitzwilliam's collections explore world history and art from antiquity

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to the present day. It houses over half a million objects from ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman artefacts, to medieval illuminated manuscripts, masterpiece paintings from the Renaissance to the 21st century, world class prints and drawings, and outstanding collections of coins, Asian arts, ceramics and other applied arts. The Fitzwilliam presents a wide ranging public programme of major exhibitions, events and education activities, and is an internationally recognised institute of learning, research and conservation.

www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RB | Free admission

OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 - 17.00, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00;

CLOSED: 24-26 & 31 December, 1 January, Good Friday

The Ashmolean Museum

Founded in 1683, the Ashmolean is Britain's first public museum. Its collections are large, rich and unusually diverse, ranging from archaeology to fine and decorative arts, and from numismatics to casts of classical sculpture from the great museums of Europe. The Ashmolean is home to the best collection of Predynastic Egyptian material in Europe; the

only great collection of Minoan antiquities outside Greece; the largest and most important group of Raphael drawings in the world; the greatest Anglo-Saxon collections outside the British Museum; a world-renowned collection of coins and medals; and outstanding holdings of Indian, Chinese, Japanese and Islamic art. The works and objects in these remarkable collections tell the story of civilisation and the aspirations of mankind from Nineveh and ancient Egypt, to the Renaissance, right up to the triumphs of twentieth century Europe. Admission to the Museum is free.

National Museums Scotland

National Museums Scotland is one of the leading museum groups in the UK and Europe and it looks after collections of national and international importance. The organisation provides loans, partnerships, research and training in Scotland and internationally. Our individual museums are the National Museum of Scotland, the National Museum of Flight, the National Museum of Rural Life and the National War Museum. The National Museums Collection Centre in Edinburgh houses conservation and research facilities as well as collections not currently on display.

- Twitter: [@NtlMuseumsScot](https://twitter.com/NtlMuseumsScot)
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/NationalMuseumsScotland
- Instagram: [@NationalMuseumsScotland](https://www.instagram.com/NationalMuseumsScotland)

Glasgow Museums

Glasgow is Scotland's cultural powerhouse and the city is home to the finest civic collection in the UK, and one of the finest in northern Europe, with treasures of international significance. Glasgow Museums is the largest museum service in the UK, outside London. The civic collection includes over 1.4 million objects valued for insurance purposes at over £1.4 billion. They are housed in ten world-class venues; Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Riverside Museum, The Burrell Collection (closed until 2020 for refurbishment), Gallery of Modern Art, People's Palace, Scotland Street School Museum, St Mungo Museum of Religious Life, Provand's Lordship, Kelvin Hall and Glasgow Museums Resource Centre. All are free to enter.