

PRESS RELEASE

1 February 2019

Art Fund pledges additional £500,000 funding to support UK curators

Today, Art Fund announced its first new funding opportunities for 2019. The three programmes represent a total of £505,000 in further funding available to support UK curators. They are:

- Art Fund & AAMC Foundation Travel Fellowship – a \$72,000 (c.£55,000) international collaboration between Art Fund and the US-based Association of Art Museum Curators Foundation, to enable UK curators to travel and attend the AAMC's conference in New York City accompanied by further grants to activate ideas and develop relationships established through the conference.
- Curatorial Network Grants – a £150,000 open fund which is available to all subject specialist networks and other curatorial networks within the UK.
- New Collecting Awards – Now in its fifth year, the New Collecting Awards provides £300,000 to empower some of the UK's most talented, early-career curators to build new collections for their museums.

Stephen Deuchar, Director of Art Fund said: 'Curators are the engines that drive our museums. For the last several years we have been committed to providing them with a range of opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge, and to championing the vital role they play. This group of new funding streams is another important step forward.'

Art Fund & AAMC Foundation Travel Fellowship

Applications are now open and close 12 February. Eight fellowships available.

The Art Fund & AAMC Foundation Conference Travel Fellowship will provide full funding for eight UK-based curators to travel to and attend the AAMC & AAMC Foundation annual conference in New York in May 2019.

This programme has been developed with an aim to enable UK curators to engage meaningfully and with authority on the international stage, developing their own experience and learning while also raising the profile of their institutions and collections abroad.

As well as attendance at the AAMC & AAMC Foundation annual conference, curators will be invited to take part in introductory weekend tours; benefit from a pairing with a peer

US-based curator to offer collegial partnership throughout the conference; receive an invitation to the AAMC Foundation's Program Alumni Reception, a networking event allowing attendees to connect with others engaged in professional development and with AAMC; and enjoy a 2-year AAMC membership allowing access to AAMC's suite of curatorial development opportunities.

Following the conference, recipients of the travel fellowships will be eligible to draw down additional research and development grants to activate ideas and develop relationships established through the conference.

The conference will take place 4-7 May 2019 preceded by the weekend programme.

Curatorial Network Grants

Applications open 25 February for large grants and close on 24 April. Applications for grants smaller than £5,000 may be submitted on a rolling basis. Funding available: £150,000

Curatorial Network Grants are a new annual funding programme open to subject specialist networks (SSNs) and other curatorial networks around the UK. It is designed in direct response to research previously carried out by Art Fund which confirmed a decline in the number of curatorial and subject specialist roles in UK museums over the past decade. Coupled with a tendency for museums to replace retiring subject specialists with more generalist curators who have responsibility for multiple collection disciplines, the research revealed, among other priorities, a need to ensure that subject specialism and expertise is accessible and shared as widely as possible among museum professionals.

The overall aim of this fund is to encourage the wide sharing of expertise, skills and knowledge across the sector, through SSNs and other curatorial networks, for the benefit of museum collections and audiences. The funding is designed to help networks:

- Capitalise on opportunities to develop and expand their activities
- Develop and share knowledge and skills relating to subject-specialism, professional skills and public engagement
- Collaborate with each other and with museum audiences
- Innovate, test new ideas and share their findings
- Create tangible public outcomes

New Collecting Awards

Applications open 25 February and close 24 April. Funding available £300,000

This scheme helps to build collections nationwide. Now in its fifth year, the New Collecting Awards enable the next generation of curators to build critical professional skills by pursuing new avenues of collecting for their museums.

Art Fund_

Open to UK curators working with public collections, it provides grants typically between £50,000 and £80,000 to some of the most talented, early-career curators to build new collections for their respective museums. Award recipients also receive a specific allocation to use towards their own professional development, to spend on research, travel and training costs, plus the ongoing support of a mentor, Art Fund staff and trustees.

The New Collecting Awards have been made possible by a number of generous individuals and trusts including the Ruddock Foundation for the Arts, the Wolfson Foundation, the Vivmar Foundation and the Coral Samuel Charitable Trust.

Through New Collecting Awards, twenty-three significant projects have been supported which innovate and expand the collections in museums, ranging from Brighton to Glasgow. Projects have included the formation of a fine art collection of LGBT culture and history at Walker Art Gallery, a collection of work exploring war and the digital at the Imperial War Museum and an inspiring new collection of artists' moving image works at Royal Pavillion and Museums, Brighton.

To apply to any of the above three programmes, please visit artfund.org/supporting-museums.

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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 151,000 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 Tate St Ives in 2018) and a range of digital platforms.