

## PRESS RELEASE

Monday 2 December 2019

### Vote opens to find Britain's favourite work of art in Art Fund's 2019 poll

- Search is on to find favourite Art Funded work of 2019
- Shortlist of 10 works by artists including John Akomfrah, JMW Turner and Dorothea Tanning
- Vote open to the public until Wednesday 11 December  
<https://www.artfund.org/workof2019>

Art Fund, the national fundraising charity for art, has launched its annual poll to name the nation's favourite acquisition of the year. Voters are invited to choose from a shortlist of 10 works of art that Art Fund helped UK museums and galleries to buy in 2019:

- John Akomfrah, *Mimesis: African Soldier*, 2018, Glasgow Museums / Bristol Museum & Art Gallery
- Dorothea Tanning, *Tableau Vivant*, 1954, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh
- Adeela Suleman, *After All It's Always Somebody Else Who Dies*, 2017, Manchester Art Gallery
- JMW Turner, *Walton Bridges*, 1806, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery
- Lawrence Toyne, *Mid-Week Practice at Stamford Bridge*, 1953, National Football Museum, Manchester
- Carlo Dolci, *St Agatha*, c1665-70, Osterley Park & House, Isleworth
- Robert Howlett, *Brunel in front of the launching chains of SS Great Eastern*, 1857, Brunel Museum, London
- Joseph Gott, *Greyhound with Puppies*, 1825, Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham
- Margaret Gillies, *Portrait of Charles Dickens*, 1843, Charles Dickens Museum, London
- Unknown artist, *The Spanish Armada off the Coast of England*, c1590-1610 Ulster Museum, Belfast

The poll is now open and runs until 12noon on Wednesday 11 December. The winner will be announced on Monday 16 December. All voters will be entered in to a free prize draw with the chance of winning a National Art Pass (plus one) worth £108.00. Anyone is eligible to vote in the poll which can be accessed here: <https://www.artfund.org/workof2019>

# Art Fund\_

The shortlisted works encompass painting, photography and sculpture. Their combined value is £3.4m. They all joined public collections in the past year with Art Fund contributing over £600k towards their acquisition.

Previous winners of Art Fund Work of the Year include: an Anglo-Saxon gold pendant, Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery in 2018; Sir Edwin Landseer, *The Monarch of the Glen* (c.1851), National Galleries Scotland in 2017; and Unknown artist, *The Armada Portrait of Elizabeth I* (1588), Royal Museums Greenwich in 2016.

-Ends-

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## Notes to Editors:

### About the works

- John Akomfrah, Mimesis: African Soldier, 2018, Glasgow Museums / Bristol Museum & Art Gallery

A powerful addition to Bristol and Glasgow Museums' collections, visibly telling the stories of people from the Commonwealth who were called on to serve in war for Britain.

- Adeela Suleman, After All It's Always Somebody Else Who Dies, 2017, Manchester Art Gallery

This ornate repousse steelwork echoes the decorative traditions of the Mughal style and is a memorial to the victims of violence in the artist's home city of Karachi.

- Dorothea Tanning, Tableau Vivant, 1954, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh

This cryptic work featuring Tanning's dog Katchina was included in the artist's first exhibition in Britain and draws on Surrealist themes of power, love, humour and eroticism.

- Lawrence Toyne, Mid-Week Practice at Stamford Bridge, 1953, National Football Museum, Manchester

This atmospheric painting shows the Chelsea players practising at their home ground and depicts the look of the stadium in the 1950s, during a period of transformation for the club.

- [JMW Turner, Walton Bridges, 1806, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery](#)

This early oil painting by Turner may be the first he composed directly from nature and is a centrepiece of the gallery's early-19th-century collection.

- [Carlo Dolci, St Agatha, c1665-70, Osterley House, Isleworth](#)

This devotional picture of the Christian martyr St Agatha was originally hung in Osterley House in the 18th century and now returns to grace its Yellow Breakfast Room.

- [Robert Howlett, Brunel in front of the launching chains of SS Great Eastern, 1857, Brunel Museum, London](#)

This iconic photograph is both a defining image of Brunel and a reminder of the ambition and might of Victorian engineering.

- [Joseph Gott, Greyhound with Puppies, 1825, Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham](#)

This marble sculpture is a fine example of the neoclassical style that flourished across Europe in the mid-18th century.

- [Margaret Gillies, Portrait of Charles Dickens, 1843, Charles Dickens Museum, London](#)

This fine portrait of the 31-year-old author was exhibited at the Royal Academy summer exhibition in 1844 before disappearing for 130 years. It now takes pride of place at the Dickens Museum.

- [Unknown artist, The Spanish Armada off the Coast of England, c1590-1610, Ulster Museum, Belfast](#)

This detailed miniature painting believed to be by a Flemish artist presents a vivid depiction of the defeat of the Spanish Armada by the British navy in 1588.

## 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 St Fagans National History Museum near Cardiff in 2019) and a range of digital platforms. [www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org)