

## PRESS RELEASE

27 February 2020

### Art Fund announces latest recipients of Headley Fellowships

- *Four museum curators based in Sussex, Shropshire, Cambridgeshire and Yorkshire will benefit from time and resources to carry out research projects which deepen collections expertise.*
- *A total of eleven museums professionals have been supported to date through the Headley Fellowships scheme, with a further eleven fellowships available later this year in the third round of the programme.*

The Headley Trust and Art Fund announced today the successful recipients of the second round of the Headley Fellowships with Art Fund. This three-year programme was launched in 2018 to give curators the opportunity of focused time to research their institution's collections, providing £600,000 in funding overall.

The Headley Fellowship gives funding to back-fill mid-career and experienced curators' posts in order to allow individuals to take time away from their day-to-day responsibilities and focus on collections research. Each fellow also receives up to £5,000 which can be used for travel, courses and learning opportunities.

The scheme is a response to Art Fund's own research, which revealed that almost three-quarters (72%) of museum curators spent 15% or less of their time on collections research. It also comes at a time when public spending on museums and galleries in England has fallen by almost £400m over the last eight years.

The Headley Fellowships programme has previously supported another seven curators from across the UK, resulting in projects including the creation of new exhibitions, such as Displays of Power, on at Grant Museum of Zoology. Joanne Anderson, curator at the Great North Museum Hancock, who received a Headley Fellowship in 2019, said: "It cannot be overstated how much of a fantastic opportunity my Headley Fellowship has been. For the first time, I have been able to study in depth a wonderful collection. In the process, I have enhanced existing skills and developed new ones". A further eleven fellowships will be available later this year in the third round of the programme.

The four curators selected this year are:

- Jody Joy, Senior Curator at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge, who will be researching archaeology in Cambridgeshire. He commented: "The Headley Fellowship is such a great scheme because it gives curators who would never otherwise have had the opportunity in their day-to-day work, to fully study the collections in their care."
- Martin Pel, Curator of Fashion and Textiles at Brighton Museum, who will be researching the influence of British artist Martin Battersby on Brighton Museum. He commented: "The Headley Fellowship gives me the resources to research the contribution of Martin Battersby, who essentially created the Brighton Museum we see today. It will also allow the public, through talks, re-display of objects, and presence on social media, an understanding of Battersby's legacy."
- Georgina Grant, Senior Curator at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, in Shropshire, who will be researching the Coalbrookdale Company orders. She commented: "The Headley Fellowship will provide me with career and skills development and a unique opportunity for in-depth research and essential collections work."
- Natalie Murray, Collections and Exhibitions Manager at the Cooper Gallery, who will be researching the French paintings and drawings of the Cooper Collection. She commented: "I feel elated to have been awarded the Headley Fellowship and to have so much time and resources to focus on one area of our collection. I'm looking forward to the in-depth research and to making connections with other collections and organisations."

Helen McLeod, the Headley Trust, said, "The Headley Fellowships with Art Fund provide a unique opportunity for some of the UK's most talented curators. With this support, they can take time away from the growing day-to-day pressures of their roles to focus on research that will lead to new ways to engage the public with their collections and make connections with their peers in the museum world. We congratulate the four new beneficiaries on their exciting news and look forward to following their progress in the coming months."

Sarah Philp, Director of Programme and Policy, Art Fund, said, "The UK has some of the richest museum collections in the world, but there are still so many hidden narratives and so much knowledge yet to be uncovered. The Headley Fellowships give curators the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the art and objects in their care, and I am so excited to find out what new stories our new Fellows will be able to tell museum visitors as a result of these fascinating research projects."

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# Art Fund\_

## Media enquiries

Irene Ruiz Garrido, Communications Assistant, Art Fund

iruizgarrido@artfund.org / 020 7225 4859

## Notes to Editors

### The Headley Trust

The Headley Trust was founded in 1973 by Sir Timothy Sainsbury, who remains the Chairman 46 years later. It is one of 16 Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts. The Headley Trust makes grants of around £4 million a year, largely in the Arts and Heritage field. Among its priority areas are museums and galleries, particularly those operating in the regions. The trustees particularly wish to support the professional development of curators, as well as the display, study and acquisition of British ceramics and the conservation of industrial, maritime and built heritage.

[www.sfct.org.uk/Headley](http://www.sfct.org.uk/Headley) for information about the full range of the trust's interests

### Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by the 159,000 members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine. Art Fund also supports museums through its annual prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year, which was won by St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff, in 2019, and through a range of digital platforms. [www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org)