ART FUND ANNOUNCES QUEER BRITAIN AS NEW TENANTS AT 2 GRANARY SQUARE, LONDON

Art Fund, the national charity for art, announces today that Queer Britain will be opening the UK’s first national LGBTQ+ museum at its building in Kings Cross, London.

Established in 2018, Queer Britain is a registered charity and aims for the new museum to be a fully inclusive space that celebrates the stories, people and places that are so intrinsic to the queer community in the UK, and beyond. The museum is an inclusive place that promises to
welcome everyone regardless of sexuality or gender identity – allowing visitors to explore and learn about the past, present and future stories that the queer community is steeped in.

The museum will be housed on the ground floor of 2 Granary Square, Kings Cross, London, NC1 48H, part of the building owned by Art Fund. The lease starts in January 2022 and Queer Britain hopes to be able to open the doors to its new museum to the public free of charge in spring 2022 and will announce its plans and programme shortly. Queer Britain succeeds The House of Illustration as Art Fund’s tenants, who are moving to a larger space.

Jenny Waldman (she/her), director, Art Fund, said, ‘We’re delighted to welcome Queer Britain as our new tenants. Their exciting proposal for the first UK museum dedicated to exploring LGBTQ+ histories, people and ideas was warmly supported by our trustees, and we’re thrilled that our beautiful building in Granary Square will be home for the first phase of the Queer Britain museum. It promises to be an essential destination.’

Lisa Power (she/her), Queer Britain trustee, said, ‘I’m really excited that Queer Britain is finally going to have a space to show what we can do and that we’re here for all the community, from old lesbian feminist warhorses like me to young queer folk of all genders and ethnicities. Queer Britain aims to tell our many and diverse histories, and now we have a home to do that from.’

Anjum Mouj (she/her), Queer Britain trustee, said, ‘The UK is finally getting the LGBTQ+ museum it deserves, to reflect and celebrate all our exciting and wildly diverse communities, whatever their sexualities, gender identities, backgrounds, ability or heritage. Community lives in unity.”

Joseph Galliano (he/him), director and co-founder, Queer Britain, said, ‘It’s time the UK had an LGBTQ+ museum, for all. And we are delighted to have found our first home in beautiful Granary Square with Art Fund as our first landlord. It’s a prime location accessible to swathes of the country, and in a part of town with a rich Queer heritage.’

Once open the space will include four galleries, a workshop, an education space, gift shop and offices for the Queer Britain team. The museum will be fully accessible via lifts and ramps and will always be free entry but welcomes donations to support its work. The ever-growing Queer Britain archive is currently housed at the Bishopsgate Institute (accessible by appointment to the public and researchers). The Granary Square tenancy is initially for two years.

For images visit https://bibli.artfund.org/web/1683f0e2bfbd502f/granary-square/

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Notes to Editors:

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. In response to Covid-19 Art Fund made £3.6 million in urgent funding available to support museums through reopening and beyond, including Respond and Reimagine grants to help meet immediate need and reimagine future ways of working. A further £2 million has been made available in 2021 for Reimagine projects. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by Art Partners, donors, trusts and foundations and the 131,000 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. The winner of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021 is Firstsite in Colchester.

www.artfund.org

Queer Britain
Queer Britain is working to establish the UK’s first national LGBTQ+ museum and is set to be arguably one of the most important museums to have launched in the UK in recent years. Co-founded in 2018 by Joseph Galliano, Queer Britain now has over 30 team members and numerous volunteers who have been working behind the scenes to bring the museum into reality. It will shine a light on the queer communities rich and complex histories becoming be an essential place for all, regardless of sexuality or gender identity, to discover the rich and diverse history and culture of LGBTQ+ people throughout the UK and beyond.

www.queerbritain.org.uk