PRESS RELEASE

PRE-RAPHAELITE TREASURES, WORK BY ANTONY GORMLEY, DESIGNS BY ISABEL RAWSTHORNE AND THOMAS HARDY ARCHIVES

ALL TO GO ON LOAN TO UK GALLERIES THROUGH WESTON LOAN PROGRAMME WITH ART FUND

Sixth round of Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund recipients announced
Loans will reveal new perspectives on the Pre-Raphaelites, Thomas Hardy, Isabel Rawsthorne, terracotta manufacture and Japanese pottery in Britain
Applications for the seventh round of Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund to open in June

Exquisite drawings and watercolours by the Pre-Raphaelites, Antony Gormley’s The Brick Man, important archival material about Thomas Hardy and costume designs by Isabel Rawsthorne are among the exciting items being lent in this latest round of forthcoming exhibitions supported by the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund.
These will go to the sixth round of successful applicants to the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund announced today, which are: Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft, Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden, Leamington Spa Art Gallery and Museum, Watts Gallery – Artists’ Village in Compton, the Wessex Museums Trust and Ty Pawb in Wrexham. A total of £105,811 has been awarded in this round, bringing the total so far to almost £1 million across 65 organisations since the scheme began in 2017.

Thirteen striking costume designs by artist Isabel Rawsthorne for the 1953 Royal Opera House production of Strauss’ opera Elektra, have never been seen beyond the Royal Opera House. The designs will go on display in May at The Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden, alongside two further Rawsthorne paintings and Giacometti’s sculpture, Head of Isabel II, from the Sainsbury Centre. The grant from the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund covers the special conservation, mounting work and transport required to make these loans possible.

Created by the Garfield Weston Foundation and Art Fund, the scheme is the first UK-wide grant programme designed to directly fund and empower smaller museums to borrow outstanding works from national or major lending museums and galleries.

Jenny Waldman said, ‘We are delighted that the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund continues to provide smaller museums with the means to borrow nationally significant works from some of the UK’s greatest collections. Making inspiring connections and deepening long-term relationships with lending institutions will be increasingly important as we navigate the pandemic.’

Sophia Weston, Trustee of Garfield Weston Foundation said, ‘Once again, ambitious loans will go to venues across the UK thanks to the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund. We are thrilled to see the variety of works and archival materials that will be displayed at local museums. These works will shed new light on existing collections and provide inspiration for visitors.’

Art Fund also called today for the UK’s museums and galleries to note the timing for the next (seventh) round of Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund. Applications will open in June with full details to be announced. Ambitious, exciting and high-profile loan projects that have the potential to be genuinely transformative for the borrowing museum or gallery are particularly encouraged.

The scheme, which has dramatically boosted visitor numbers to smaller institutions - by an average of 40% pre-pandemic - has significantly widened the lending pool of objects from major collections. Weston Loan Programme support has helped dozens of museums realise exhibitions with funding for transportation, conservation and training. It has raised the profile of many of the borrowing institutions and provided an opportunity for museum teams to develop new skills that will enable ever more ambitious exhibitions in the future. Visitors to the shows have often commented on the importance of seeing works of national significance in their local settings.
Details of this round of grant recipients is as follows:

- **Watts Gallery – Artists’ Village** in Compton for Pre-Raphaelite Treasures: Drawings and Watercolours from the Ashmolean Museum, from **8 March to 12 June 2022**, with works from the Ashmolean’s world-class collection illuminating George Frederic Watts’s deep connection to this group of artists.

- **Tŷ Pawb** in Wrexham, North Wales for Tales from Terracottapolis, from **19 March to 11 June 2022**, with artefacts and artworks from Leeds Museums & Galleries, Kate MacGarry gallery and the Henry Moore Institute.

- The Fry Art Gallery in Saffron Walden for The Many Sides of Isabel Rawsthorne, from **7 May to 30 October 2022**, contextualising the gallery’s own holding of Rawsthorne’s pictures with costume designs from the Royal Opera House Collection, Covent Garden and two further Rawsthorne paintings, together with Giacometti’s sculpture, Head of Isabel II, from the Sainsbury Centre.

- Wessex Museums Trust will present **Hardy’s Wessex** from **28 May to 30 October 2022**, a multi-site exhibition featuring personal objects from Thomas Hardy, some of which have never been on public display before, and including loans from the British Library, the Fitzwilliam Museum and the V&A.

- Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum for Pre-Raphaelite Visionaries, from **13 May to 18 September 2022**, which will invite visitors to rediscover a host of artists seen as Pre-Raphaelite Revivalists working at the turn of the twentieth century.

- Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft for Shōji Hamada: A Japanese Potter in Ditchling, from **0 October 2022**, with illuminating items from Stoke Potteries, Aberystwyth University Ceramics Collection, Southampton City Art Gallery and Winchcombe Archive, among others.

In 2021, 18 exhibitions were presented as part of the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund. Works were lent to, among others: Freud, Minton, Ryan: unholy trinity at Bath’s Victoria Art Gallery; an exhibition on Richard III at Yorkshire Museum and Gardens; **Antony Gormley’s Field** for the British Isles at Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art in Sunderland; Laura Knight: A Celebration at Penlee House Gallery and Museum; and an exhibition of the work of Ben Nicholson at Pallant House Gallery in Chichester.

A further two rounds of the programme are planned across this year and next.

To view other exhibitions which have been supported by the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund, please visit [https://www.artfund.org/blog/2021/01/26/weston-loan-programme-2021](https://www.artfund.org/blog/2021/01/26/weston-loan-programme-2021)
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For further information about Weston Loan Programme visit: https://www.artfund.org/weston-loan-programme

For images visit https://bibli.artfund.org/web/244f71f73f987628/weston-loan-round-6/

Notes to Editors

About Garfield Weston Foundation
Established over 60 years ago in 1958, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded, grant-making charity which supports causes across the UK and, in the most recent financial year, gave over £98 million. Since it was established, it has exceeded donations of more than £1.3 billion, of which well over half has been given in the past ten years.

One of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder and they take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation’s funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Twinings, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc) and Fortnum & Mason, amongst others – a successful model that still endures today; as the businesses have grown, so too have the charitable donations.

Known for its transparency, flexibility and straightforward approach, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities from small community organisations to large national institutions. Over 2,000 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation’s grants.

About 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 the 130,000 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.