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mima wins share of £75,000 to buy new object for public collections at COLLECT

Third time win for gallery through annual contemporary craft scheme

Yesterday, Thursday 5 May, mima won a share of £75,000 to buy a unique object for mima's public collections. mima is among eight winners of Art Fund Collect, a unique initiative run by the Art Fund and Crafts Council.

This is the third time that mima has won an object through the scheme.

Art Fund Collect is aimed at boosting contemporary craft in UK collections. It takes place annually on the preview day of COLLECT, the Crafts Council's international art fair for contemporary objects. The fair is held at London's Saatchi Gallery from 6 – 9 May.

James Beighton, curator and Vicky Sturrs, Education Officer took part on behalf of mima. This was the fourth time James has taken part. He has competed each year since the scheme started in 2008, and has three times been a winner.

Alongside the other shortlisted curators, James and Vicky had special access to the fair, ahead of VIP and private buyers. A total of eight museums and galleries were shortlisted to take part this year. They all had just one hour to pick an object they wished to purchase, before presenting their selection to a panel of judges.

James and Vicky selected *Brooch*, 2010 by Italian goldsmith Stefano Marchetti, costing £5,300. Trained at the famous Padua school, Marchetti is known as a 'radical goldsmith' because of his cutting-edge

approach. This playful piece represents a human tongue and is constructed to move as the wearer does. Inspired by the tradition of holy reliquary, this work relates in particular to St Anthony of Padua.

James Beighton said: "This is the third time that mima has been able to acquire a work through Art Fund Collect and we are deeply grateful to the Art Fund and the organising committee for the trust that they have shown us. Our previous acquisitions have become firm favourites with our audiences, with the bracelet by Giovanni Corvaja (presented in 2009) being voted one of the top ten favourite works in our collection through a public poll. We are sure that this work will be equally valuable to us."

James Beighton selected and won *Bracelet* by Giovanni Corvaja in 2009 (£27,750). In 2008 he chose the dramatic, large-scale pot, *Monumental Vase V* by Julian Stair (£25,263). Both works are part of mima's permanent collection.

Stephen Deuchar, Director of the Art Fund, said: "We're delighted that all eight museums and galleries have chosen wonderful pieces this year. It's always a really exciting day, and a unique opportunity for curators from across the country to come together. We were so impressed by the curators' presentations and the vision and ambition they demonstrated. We hope their pieces will be enjoyed by the public for years to come."

Rosy Greenlees, Executive Director of the Crafts Council, said: "Congratulations to the eight galleries and museums that were successful this year. As usual the proposals from the shortlisted curators were of high quality and very well considered. We are sure these exceptional objects will be a great asset for their institutions and enjoyed by their visitors."

The shortlisted curators were granted special access to the fair ahead of private buyers and VIPs, and one day before doors opened to the public. They had one hour to go around the 37 international galleries represented, and pick one object they wished to add to their museum or gallery's public collection. Curators were required to justify their choice in a verbal presentation to the judges, chaired this year by Anthony Griffiths, Art Fund Trustee and Keeper of the British Museum's Print Collection.

Winning objects were purchased outright by the Art Fund, which provides the £75,000 funding pot.

Art Fund Collect takes place each year at COLLECT. This unique funding initiative was set up by the Art Fund and Crafts Council in 2008 as a way of boosting public collections with the best of international contemporary craft. To date, the scheme has contributed £275,000 towards the purchase of unique works for the public to enjoy.

A total of 18 institutions applied and the judging panel met on 23 March to draw up the shortlist. Applicants were required to submit a statement describing their museum or gallery's collecting priorities as well as their personal aspirations for helping their public collections grow and flourish.

COLLECT 2011 is held at the Saatchi Gallery, and is open to the public from 6-9 May 2011. The public will be able to view all winning and shortlisted objects at the fair, throughout the weekend. Each one will be marked with an Art Fund Collect plaque.

Ends

Low res image attached. High res images available – please contact Marina Bradbury, mbradbury@artfund.org

Image caption: James Beighton, curator at mima with *Brooch*, 2010 by Stefano Marchetti. © Mark Crick.

Notes to Editors

The **Art Fund Collect judging panel** is chaired this year by Anthony Griffiths, Art Fund Trustee and Keeper of the British Museum's Print Collection. The other Art Fund Collect judges are: Stephen Deuchar, Director of the Art Fund; Sir Nicholas Goodison, Ex Chairman of the Crafts Council and the Art Fund; Rosy Greenlees, Executive Director of the Crafts Council; Tanya Harrod, author and craft expert and Jonathan Marsden, Art Fund Trustee and Director of The Royal Collection.

COLLECT: the international art fair for contemporary objects, Saatchi Gallery, 6-9 May 2011 COLLECT is one of the most important annual fairs for contemporary craft in Europe, presented by the Crafts Council, showcasing work by over 500 artists represented by 37 international galleries. Visit www.craftscouncil.org.uk/collect

The Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for works of art and plays a major part in enriching the range and quality of art on public display in the UK. Supported by some 80,000 individual members, it campaigns, fundraises and gives money to museums and galleries to buy, show and share art, and offers many ways of enjoying it through the [National Art Pass](#).

As well as supporting the buying of works of art, initiatives under its funding programme include: sponsoring the UK tour of the ARTIST ROOMS collection so that it reaches several million people across the UK each year, and fundraising: two recently successful campaigns include bringing in £6 million to save the Staffordshire Hoard for the West Midlands and Pieter Brueghel the Younger's *The Procession to Calvary* for Nostell Priory, in partnership with the National Trust. Over the past year, the Art Fund has given £24 million for works of art to 248 museums and galleries. The Art Fund is funded entirely by its art-loving and museum-going supporters who believe that great art should be for everyone to enjoy. Find out more at www.artfund.org.

The Crafts Council's goal is to make the UK the best place to make, see, collect and learn about contemporary craft.

- We believe that craft plays a dynamic and vigorous role in the UK's social, economic and cultural life.
- We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to make, see, collect and learn about craft.
- We believe that the strength of craft lies in its use of traditional and contemporary techniques, ideas and materials to make extraordinary new work.
- We believe that the future of craft lies in nurturing talent; children and young people must be able to learn about craft at school and have access to excellent teaching throughout their education.
- 12% of the UK population visited a craft exhibition in 2009/10, and 18% participated in craft activity in the same year (DCMS/ACE Taking Part data update August 2010). (Taking Part is an ongoing survey being carried out by Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Arts Council England (ACE))
- More than 2.8 million visits were made to the Crafts Council website in 2009. To find out everything you need to know about where to make, see, collect and learn about contemporary craft visit www.craftscouncil.org.uk
- Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, and carnival to crafts. Great art inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves, and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2011 and 2015, Arts Council England will invest £1.4 billion of public money from government and a further £0.85 billion from the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

mima Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art

mima is one of the UK's leading galleries for modern and contemporary art and craft. The landmark building designed by Erick van Egeraat Architects is situated in the heart of Middlesbrough. mima opened to international critical acclaim in January 2007. Hosting temporary exhibitions of fine art and craft from 1900 to the present, mima showcases work by internationally acclaimed artists. Exhibitions change throughout the year and admission is free. mima is a partner of Tate, and exchanges programmes, ideas and skills with the Plus Tate network of visual arts organisations.

www.visitmima.com

For further press information, images or interviews contact:

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mima

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Gallery and shop opening times

Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat

10.00am–4.30pm

Thurs 10.00am–7.00pm

Sun 12noon–4.00pm

Closed Mon

Please note that mima is now closed on Bank Holidays.