



## Press Release

21 October 2010

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### **mima is partner in *Plus Tate*, a major new collaborative arts initiative launched by Culture Secretary in London today**

*Plus Tate*, a major new national initiative for the visual arts involving Tate and 18 of the UK's most dynamic arts institutions, was launched on 21 October at Tate Modern by Culture Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. Joining together to exchange ideas, knowledge, skills and resources, as well as programmes and collections, the *Plus Tate* partners, along with and facilitated by Tate, will broaden and deepen engagement in modern and contemporary art across the country.

The full list of partners announced is as follows: Arnolfini, Bristol; BALTIC, Gateshead; Cornerhouse, Manchester; firstsite, Colchester; Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea; Grizedale Arts, Cumbria; The Hepworth Wakefield; Ikon, Birmingham; Kettle's Yard, Cambridge; mima, Middlesbrough; Mostyn, Llandudno; Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange, Penzance; Nottingham Contemporary; The Pier Arts Centre, Orkney; Towner, Eastbourne; Turner Contemporary, Margate; Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; and Wysing Arts Centre, Bourn (Cambridge).

The impact of the visual arts on cultural and socio-economic regeneration in the regions has been hugely significant in recent years. Building on the achievements of this sector requires imaginative new models of collaboration and entrepreneurial thinking.

During a pilot phase of the *Plus Tate* programme in 2009, then known as *Tate Connects*, several organisations in the network began to set new standards for sector responsibility through a cost-effective and resilient approach to running galleries and arts organisations, exploring together new ways of increasing generated income, setting up staff training and placement schemes, as well as sharing audience research and joint business models. The network has subsequently expanded and now 18 organisations are on board, plus Tate.

Culture Secretary, Jeremy Hunt said:

"In a week where we achieved a good spending settlement for the arts, I am very pleased to be at Tate to launch *Plus Tate*. It is an outstanding example of initiative, creative thinking and collaboration. The partnership between Tate and these eighteen arts organisations up and down the country will bring huge public benefit, by pooling resources and inspiring people through art."

Nicholas Serota, Director, Tate said:

"The *Plus Tate* network is central to Tate's vision. Working in partnership, collaborating closely with leading organisations that have high national and international profiles and strong links to their local communities, means we can support their further development and strengthen their hand by sharing with them Tate's resources and Collection. At the same time, we can deepen our own experience by tapping into their particular expertise and inventiveness."

Kate Brindley, Director of Museums and Galleries for Middlesbrough Council, said: "Tate is the UK's leading international arts organisation so the fact that they have entered into a partnership with mima is a huge endorsement of our quality and ambition.

"The 'Plus Tate' hallmark is a fantastic show of support of mima's success on a national and international level so it is of huge significance for us.

"On a practical level it brings us tremendous opportunities from everything from loans of Tate collections and exhibitions through to the sharing of expertise.

"There will be a significant amount of peer support from Tate and this partnership will hopefully lead to projects with other partners throughout the art world.

"The opportunities the partnership presents are wide and varied so we are simply delighted to be part of Plus Tate."

Mayor of Middlesbrough Ray Mallon said: "mima is one of the jewels in Middlesbrough's crown and I am delighted that this new partnership with Tate recognises the quality of mima and its growing status as an art gallery.

"Middlesbrough has in the past failed to be ambitious enough but the likes of mima now symbolise our massive ambition as a town.

"The gallery plays a significant role on the national stage and helps in no small part to put Middlesbrough on the map."

In the North East the Plus Tate partnership also includes the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead.

Middlesbrough primary school pupils have already in the past week been involved in a Tate project.

The Tate Movie Project sees school children from across the country use their artistic skills to help create an animated movie alongside Aardman Animations, the creators of Wallace and Gromit.

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### **Notes to Editors**

Each *Plus Tate* partner organisation, including Tate, is undergoing development and change, often involving a capital project. All are committed to expanding participation in the visual arts and to collaboration and exchange with the network as a whole. The pilot phase of the programme, known as *Tate Connects*, was made possible through the support of Arts Council England and a further grant from the Cultural Leadership Programme enabled us to bring the network together for a programme of organisational and leadership development. Through an open call process in February 2010, Tate selected eight more partners and extended the network to 18 organisations across the UK. To do this, Tate has worked with National Galleries of Scotland and National Museums of Wales.

**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.