

News Release



Media information from Middlesbrough Council

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Middlesbrough gallery shortlisted for prestigious Art Fund award

Mima, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, is one of only 10 shortlisted UK museums and galleries now in the running to spend a share of a £50,000 fund on contemporary craft at Collect 2008, in The Art Fund's new initiative Art Fund Collect. Launched in November 2007 by The Art Fund in partnership with the Crafts Council, the scheme invited museums to apply for the opportunity to gain privileged preview access to Collect 2008.

James Beighton, curator of craft at mima, said: "We feel especially honoured that mima has been shortlisted for Art Fund Collect. In this, our opening year, we see the recognition as a real vindication of our collecting ambitions. It demonstrates a shared understanding between the Art Fund, the Crafts Council and mima on the vital role that craft can play in an institution's contemporary collecting activities. The approach developed by the Art Fund for awarding this prize reflects a welcome level of trust and respect in the curatorial expertise at museums and galleries across the country."

A total of 23 galleries and museums from across the country applied and 10 have the chance to select one significant contemporary craft object for their collection during a special pre-VIP preview. Each museum will submit its choice of object by 1pm on 24 January to the Committee, who will then choose the winners that will share the £50,000 fund.

David Barrie, Director of The Art Fund, said: “Great works of contemporary craft are still available for affordable sums if you seize the opportunity offered by fairs like Collect. This strategic and active intervention by The Art Fund is designed to by-pass the often cumbersome decision-making processes and enable museum curators to be able to compete with private collectors to acquire the very best work now being made.”

Rosy Greenlees, Executive Director, [the Crafts Council](#), said:

“The Crafts Council is committed to creating opportunities for public collections to acquire craft. We are delighted that the Art Fund is supporting craft collections through this initiative.”

mima is one of the UK’s leading galleries of modern and contemporary art and craft. The landmark building designed by Erick van Egeraat associated architects is situated in the heart of Middlesbrough and opened on 27 January 2007.

mima hosts temporary exhibitions of fine art and craft from 1900 to the present. Featuring work by internationally acclaimed artists the programme includes painting, drawing, ceramics, jewellery, sound, film, mixed media, photography and sculpture. The gallery brings together the town's art collections for the first time, showcased in an annual collection show.

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Notes to Editors:

1. The ten shortlisted museums and galleries are: Ulster Museum, Belfast; Hove Museum, Brighton and Hove; National Museum Wales, Cardiff; McManus Galleries and Museum, Dundee; Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead; Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art; Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston; Sheffield Galleries and Museum; and York Museums Trust

2. Collect: the international art fair for contemporary objects is organised by the Crafts Council and staged at the V&A, London, from 25 to 29 January 2008. Now in its fifth year, it is the only event of its kind in Europe and provides a unique opportunity to view and buy contemporary craft from around the globe. Collect 2008 has over 400 international artists represented by 42 galleries from 16 countries, including 19 from the UK and 23 from as far afield as Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands and Scandinavia. Ten new galleries will be exhibiting in 2008, of which seven are from abroad, including Galleri Montan, Denmark, The Glassery, Sweden, and Guil-Guem Metal Research Centre, Korea.
3. The Art Fund Collect Committee members are: Chair, Jonathan Marsden, Art Fund Trustee; David Barrie, Director of The Art Fund; Sir Nicholas Goodison, collector and former Chairman of The Art Fund; and Rosy Greenlees, Director of the Crafts Council.
4. The Art Fund is the UK's leading independent art charity. It offers grants to help UK museums and galleries enrich their collections and campaigns widely on behalf of museums and their visitors. It is entirely funded from public donations and has 80,000 members. Since 1903 the charity has helped museums and galleries all over the UK secure 860,000 works of art for their collections. In January 2007 The Art Fund successfully led the public appeal to save JMW Turner's Blue Rigi for Tate, and in July 2007 was instrumental in putting together a unique funding package to ensure Dumfries House in Ayrshire was secured for the nation. Independent of government, The Art Fund is uniquely placed to campaign on behalf of public collections across the UK. Visit the charity's website at www.artfund.org.
5. The Crafts Council is the national development agency for contemporary crafts in the UK and aims to position the UK as the global centre for the making, seeing and collecting of contemporary craft. It is committed to: making contemporary craft exciting and relevant to the widest possible audience; nurturing and supporting makers and craft professionals throughout their careers; promoting the teaching and studying of contemporary craft within schools; identifying the needs of the sector through in-depth research; and growing the market for the sale of contemporary craft to collectors, museums, businesses and the general public. Visit the Crafts Council website at: www.craftscouncil.org.uk.
6. The Crafts Council Patrons have donated a further £5,000 to the scheme for the purchase of an additional object by a UK maker for one of the shortlisted museums. The winner will be chosen by the Art Fund Collect Committee as part of the initiative.

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