

News release

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Images available on request

mima wins share of £75,000 contemporary craft prize

Independent charity The Art Fund and the Crafts Council today announced that mima, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art is one of the five winners of Art Fund Collect, a £75,000 award for curators to acquire a piece of contemporary craft for their museum or gallery. This is the second year running that mima wins this prestigious award.

Art Fund Collect took place yesterday, 14 May, the preview day of the Crafts Council's international fair Collect, held at London's Saatchi Gallery.

James Beighton, Curator of Craft at mima, was among ten curators to take part in a nail-biting race around the fair, with just one hour to select a new work for their museum or gallery.

An expert panel then selected the winning curators, awarding them a share of £75,000 to acquire their object outright.

James Beighton selected Bracelet, 1999 by Italian goldsmith Giovanni Corvaja for £29,000. The work juxtaposes intricate detail with bold geometric shapes and is made from 18 carat gold and 22 carat gold wire. Corvaja is based in Padua, Italy, a centre for goldsmithing, and is renowned for his avant-garde approach.

James Beighton said: "mima is privileged to have secured success in this second year of Art Fund Collect. The work presented to mima by The Art Fund last year has already become a firm favourite with our audience, and I do not doubt that this year's acquisition will prove equally central to our collection and exhibitions programme. In the last two years Art Fund Collect has established itself as the most important prize for contemporary craft collections. It enables museums across the country to embrace a new level of ambition in collecting, ensuring that their collections are both esteemed internationally and embraced regionally."

Andrew Macdonald, Deputy Director of The Art Fund, said: "These five museums have each come away with a beautiful and inspiring object representing the very best in contemporary craft. Art Fund Collect is

proving to be a wonderful way for curators to be bold and select outstanding works ahead of private buyers, for the public to enjoy."

Rosy Greenlees, Executive Director, Crafts Council, said: "I extend my congratulations to the winning museums and galleries. The Crafts Council aims to make the UK the best place to make, see and collect contemporary craft, and Art Fund Collect is central to achieving all these objectives, supporting makers, public collections and opportunities for visitors to see the very best craft."

Now in its second year, Art Fund Collect was set up in 2008 by The Art Fund, the UK's leading independent art charity and the Crafts Council, the national development agency for contemporary craft, to encourage museums and galleries around the country to acquire the best in international contemporary craft. Due to the success of last year's Art Fund Collect, The Art Fund increased the prize from £50,000 to £75,000 this year.

The other winning museums and galleries are: Aberdeen Art Gallery; Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales; Bilston Craft Gallery, Wolverhampton and the V&A.

Last year, James walked away from Art Fund Collect with Monumental Vase V by Julian Stair, worth £25,263. The work now takes pride of place in mima's contemporary craft collection.

A total of 23 applications were received for Art Fund Collect in February 2009. The final shortlist of ten was announced in April.

Collect 2009 takes place from 15 - 17 May 2009 at the Saatchi Gallery, Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, London, SW3 4SQ.

Ends

Notes to editors:

The Art Fund:

The Art Fund is the UK's leading independent art charity. It offers grants to help UK museums and galleries enrich their collections; campaigns on behalf of museums and their visitors; and promotes the enjoyment of art. 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. Recent achievements include: helping secure Titian's *Diana and Actaeon* for the National Galleries of Scotland and the National Gallery, London in February 2009 with a grant of £1 million; helping secure Anthony d'Offay's collection, *ARTIST ROOMS*, for Tate and National Galleries of Scotland in February 2008 with a grant of £1million; and running the 'Buy a Brushstroke' public appeal which raised over £550,000 to keep Turner's *Blue Rigi* watercolour in the UK. For more information contact the Press Office on 020 7225 4888 or visit www.artfund.org.

The Art Fund is a Registered Charity No. 209174

Crafts Council:

The Crafts Council is the national development agency for contemporary crafts.

The Crafts Council aims to position the UK as the best place in the world for making, seeing and collecting contemporary craft.

For further information about the Crafts Council visit www.craftscouncil.org.uk

The Crafts Council is supported by Arts Council England. Arts Council England works to get great art to everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives. As the national development agency for the arts, we support 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 2008 and 2011, we will invest £1.3 billion of public money from government and a further £0.3 billion from the National Lottery to create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

mima:

In 2008 mima acquired Monumental Vase V by Julian Stair through the Art Fund Collect scheme. 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.

Exhibitions change every quarter. Admission is free. www.visitmima.com