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The Contemporary Art Society announces shortlist for Annual Award

Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea	- with artist Cerith Wyn Evans
Leeds Art Gallery (Leeds Museums and Galleries)	- with artist Claire Barclay
Graves Art Gallery, Museums Sheffield	- with artist Katerina Šedá
Imperial War Museum London	- with artist Roddy Buchanan
Rugby Art Gallery and Museum	- with artist Stephen Sutcliffe
Mead Gallery, University of Warwick	- with artist Nils Norman

In April this year the Contemporary Art Society launched a major Annual Award for museums. The winning museum will receive £60,000 to commission an artist to make a new work for their public collection of contemporary art.

These six UK museums have been shortlisted, all are now in the running to receive the Award.

For more details please see the attached press release.

The selection panel comprises artists: Martin Boyce, Rosalind Nashashibi, Olivia Plender and is chaired by Director of the Contemporary Art Society, Paul Hobson. Their role is to select a winner from the many excellent proposals submitted by public collections across the UK. So far they have established a shortlist of six that reflect a range of approaches to the priorities for the Award. These include; to develop an outstanding new work from an artist who may be showing widely but who is not yet represented in public collections in this country, or whose work is an important fit with an existing collection. Each of the shortlisted museums will receive £1,000 to develop their 2nd stage proposals in more detail.

The deadline for the completed 2nd stage proposals is 30 October and the Award will be announced on 24 November 2009.

Over 50% of the population in the UK visit a museum at least once a year, and there is no doubt of the important cultural role museums play. The Contemporary Art Society's Award is an opportunity for UK museums to work closely with a promising contemporary artist to develop a work that will have a lasting legacy. It is a vital opportunity for museums to make a significant investment for the future of their collections and to ensure that they are communicating their work fully with audiences.

The shortlist reveals the enormous breadth and value of the public collections of contemporary art held in galleries and museums across the UK.

The Award is generously supported by the Sfumato Foundation, and is the latest initiative from the Contemporary Art Society; a not-for-profit agency that supports contemporary artists by promoting the importance of collecting and commissioning by public and private bodies and individuals nationally within the broader international context for contemporary art.

Glynn Vivian Art Gallery (Swansea) in collaboration with Arnolfini is proposing to work with artist Cerith Wyn Evans, born in 1958 in Wales he now lives and works in London. He has participated in numerous group exhibitions internationally, including the Venice Biennale (1995 and 2003), 9th International Istanbul Biennial (2005) and is represented by London gallery White Cube. Swansea art collector Richard Glynn Vivian founded the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery in 1905. The collection dates from 1700 to the present day, with contemporary works by Anthony Shapland, Craig Wood and Shani Rhys James.

Leeds Art Gallery (Leeds Museums and Galleries) has proposed to work with artist Claire Barclay, who is known for her large-scale installations consisting of collections of sculptural objects brought together into precisely plotted relationships. Barclay represented Scotland at the 2003 Venice Biennale, alongside Simon Starling and Jim Lambie. She had a major solo show at the Fruitmarket Gallery in Edinburgh earlier this year. Leeds Art Gallery's collection is a designated collection of national and international significance and includes contemporary works by Anna Barriball, Georgina Starr, Tacita Dean and Rosalind Nashashibi.

Graves Art Gallery, Museums Sheffield in collaboration with Sheffield Contemporary Art Forum is proposing to work with Czech artist Katerina Šedá. Šedá studied at the Prague Academy of Fine Arts from 1999 to 2005. Her work involves staging interventions into the 'normality' of life around her. She recently had work included in Manifesta 7 (2008), and Berlin Biennial (2008). Graves Art Gallery is part of Museums Sheffield: the collections span the 16th to the 21st century and include contemporary works by Marc Quinn, Sam Taylor-Wood, Alison Wilding and Peter Blake.

Imperial War Museum (IWM) is proposing to work with artist Roddy Buchanan. Based in Scotland, Roddy has exhibited extensively throughout Europe and the USA since the early 1990s, including a major one-person exhibition at Dundee Contemporary Arts. He represented Scotland at the Venice Biennale in 2001. The Imperial War Museum's remit includes the collecting and interpretation of material relating to all conflicts involving British and Commonwealth forces since 1914. This project will become part of the series of commissions overseen by the Art Commissions Committee established as part of the IWM in 1972. Recent commissions include Steve McQueen, Linda Kitson, and Langlands & Bell.

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum is proposing to work with artist Stephen Sutcliffe, born in Harrogate in 1968, Sutcliffe now lives and works in Glasgow. He recently participated in *Nought to Sixty – 60 Projects / 6 Months* at the ICA (2008), other past exhibitions include *Tart Contemporary* (San Francisco, 2005), *Project Space* (Tramway, Glasgow, 2003). Rugby Art Gallery and Museum has been collecting work by since 1946. Significant modern and contemporary artists in the collection include: John Keane, Bridget Riley, Eamon O'Kane and A K Dolven.

Mead Gallery, University of Warwick is proposing to work with artist Nils Norman, born in East Sussex in 1966 he now lives and works in London. Nils Norman has developed his own mix of art and activism, examining histories of utopian thinking and ideas on alternative economic systems that can work within urban living conditions. Recent exhibitions include Folkestone Triennial (2008), *Degenerate Cologne* (Köln 2006), *It Starts From Here*, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea (2007). The collection at the University of Warwick started in 1965 and includes over 800 artworks by some of the most important artists of the last 50 years, including contemporary works by Ian Davenport, Simon Paterson, Wolfgang Tilmans, George Shaw and Catherine Yass.

Notes to editors

1. For more information on shortlisted museums and galleries:

Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1394>

Graves Art Gallery, Museums Sheffield <http://www.museums-sheffield.org.uk/coresite/html/graves.asp>

Imperial War Museum, London <http://www.iwm.org.uk/>

Leeds Art Gallery <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/artgallery/>

Mead Gallery <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/art/>
<http://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/>

Rugby Art Gallery and Museum

<http://www.rugby.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents.php?categoryID=200070>

2. The aim of the Contemporary Art Society's Annual Award is to support museums to commission new work that, once completed, will remain within the museum's permanent collection. Application proposals are welcomed from museums that have not yet commissioned new work as well as from those with more experience. Museums must be able to commit at least £5,000 towards the development of a publication or catalogue. Outline proposals are required to be submitted by Tuesday 10 June 2009. The Selection Committee will meet during June to choose five museums and / or galleries who will be asked to submit a more detailed proposal. £1000 will be available to all shortlisted museums to work up the detailed proposal including the artist's time and contribution. Detailed proposals to be submitted by Friday 30 October 2009 and the Award winner will be announced in December 2009. The Award is open to artists anywhere in the world and all of the Contemporary Art Society's Museum Members.

3. Founded in 1909, the Contemporary Art Society is the national membership organisation for contemporary collectors, professionals and enthusiasts. Membership extends across the UK and comprises individual collectors at all stages of their collecting, those interested in contemporary art, curators, artists, commercial galleries, artist-led spaces and public museums. The Contemporary Art Society exists to support contemporary artists through the promotion of individual and institutional collecting and to generate the funds to purchase contemporary art to gift to public collections in the UK. Programmes are offered for individuals interested in contemporary practice and collecting; professional development schemes for curators and practitioners; purchasing and commissioning initiatives to develop public collections; and bespoke consultancy services related to contemporary collecting.

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