

1910  
—2010  
contemporary  
art society



commissioning  
to collect

# the Contemporary Art Society Annual Award for Museums **2010**

deadline for outline proposals

**Monday 7 June**

**Selectors**

Pavel Büchler  
Caroline Douglas  
Lisa Panting  
Emily Wardill

# The Contemporary Art Society Annual Award for Museums. £60,000 to commission to collect.

— 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.

— In offering this significant investment, the Contemporary Art Society wishes to reflect how vital it is for museums to gain the greatest proximity to artists and their practice. Commissioning to collect enables a close and highly rewarding working relationship between museums and the artists they wish to work with. As museums develop their contemporary collections the process of commissioning new work is likely to become a more regular feature within ongoing programmes. This Award will assist in testing various models of commissioning and help generate the skills required for such ambitious new approaches to expanding public collections.

— The Award is open to all of the Contemporary Art Society's Museum Members. 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.

— The Annual Award is offered to support the work of an artist who is at a stage in their career where they are showing regularly nationally and internationally but may not yet have major works acquired in to public collections. The Award is not limited to the work of UK based artists.

## Selectors

— **Pavel Büchler**, Artist & Research Professor in Art and Design at Manchester Metropolitan University /

**Lisa Panting**, Director of Picture This / **Caroline Douglas**, Head of Arts Council Collection / **Emily Wardill**, Artist.

## The Aims of the Annual Award

- To support a new commission that will animate and become a permanent work within a public museum's collection.
- To support an artist who may be showing widely nationally and internationally but whose work is not already well represented in collections in this country. The commission should offer an important investment in the artist's career.
- To establish through the commissioning process a new and rewarding working relationship between a museum and their proposed artist.
- To make a significant impact, be a good fit or bring sustainable change to an existing public collection.
- To generate and sustain new and extend existing curatorial and production skills. The Selectors are looking for an ambitious proposal that will result in a work that will become of national significance.

## The Application Process

- Outline proposals to be submitted by **Monday 7 June 2010**. The selectors will meet in **June 2010** to shortlist. Shortlisted museums will be asked to submit a more detailed proposal. £1000 will be available to all shortlisted museums to work up the detailed proposal, particularly to cover the artist's time and contribution.
- Detailed proposals to be submitted by **Friday 29 October 2010**. Selectors to meet in **November 2010** to make the Award. Reception for the Award presentation in early **December 2010**.
- Outline proposals to be submitted by post or email. Detailed proposals should be submitted by post to the Contemporary Art Society, 11–15 Emerald St, London WC1N 3QL
- [nationalprogrammes@contemporaryartsociety.org](mailto:nationalprogrammes@contemporaryartsociety.org)
- All decisions will be taken exclusively by the Selectors. This has been agreed so that the staff of the Contemporary Art Society's National Programmes will be able to assist all applicants in both first and second stage proposals without being able to influence decisions. The winning museum will be offered as much support as is required throughout the commissioning process.

## Step 01: Outline Proposal

- The outline proposal should be no longer than two pages of A4 and should include the name of the artist you would like to commission with some information and background on their practice.
- Include details of why you have selected to work with the artist and why you believe that commissioning them to make a major new work for your collection will meet the aims of the Contemporary Art Society Annual Award for Museums.
- Please confirm that you have agreed, in principle, with the artist that they would like to work with you and that they are fully aware of the proposal.
- The commissioning process is necessarily unpredictable and there is no expectation at this outline stage, that you will have information regarding the artist's ideas for the new work. By reflecting on past works made by the artist, give a clear description of why you feel that the interests and concerns that run through their practice makes a good fit with your existing collection or your acquisitions policy. If it is a point of departure, a description of why this commission will be influential within your collection would be useful.

## Step 02: Detailed Proposal

- The detailed proposal should offer much more information on the project and will include production information, budgets and some considered information from the artist.
- The full detail of what will be required will be agreed by the selectors when the shortlisted museums are confirmed.

## Step 03: Winning Proposal

- This will be announced in November 2010 at the Contemporary Art Society's Annual Reception.
- It is preferred that the winning museum will be able to commit to completing and exhibiting the work within 12 months. It would be ideal for the work to open to the public by November – December 2011.

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Charity registration No 208178



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