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The Contemporary Art Society:
Announces short list for their Annual Award 2010/11

The winning museum will receive £60,000 to commission an artist to make a new work for public display and for acquisition in to their collection.

The short list for 2010:

The Hepworth Wakefield and Wolverhampton Art Gallery

in partnership with **Film and Video Umbrella** - proposal with artist: **Luke Fowler**

Leeds Art Gallery (Leeds Museums & Galleries) proposal with artist: **Clare Woods**

mima, Middlesbrough and the AV Festival - proposal with artist: **John Gerrard**

Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester - proposal with artist: **Nico Vascellari**

The Award for 2009 was presented to Graves Art Gallery: Museums Sheffield for their proposal with Czech artist Katerina Sedà. The work will be exhibited in November 2010.

In the second year of the Contemporary Art Society's Annual Award, the proposals listed above have been short listed by our selection panel: Pavel Büchler (artist), Carline Douglas (Head of Arts Council Collection), Lisa Panting (Director, Picture This) and Emily Wardill (artist).

The selection panel's role is to select a winner from the many excellent proposals submitted by public collections across the UK who are members of the Contemporary Art Society. The short listed museums reflect a range of approaches to the priorities for the Award: 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 short-listed museums will receive £1,000 to develop their second stage proposals in more detail.

The winning proposal will be selected in November this year and will be announced at the Contemporary Art Society's Annual Reception on 9 November 2010 at Tate Britain.

The Award is generously supported by the Sfumato Foundation, and is the latest initiative from the Contemporary Art Society; charity 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.

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 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.

The Hepworth Wakefield and Wolverhampton Art Gallery

in partnership with Film and Video Umbrella

Luke Fowler (b.1978) explores and develops the language, history politics and conventions of filmmaking through meticulous research into his subject matter - often radical and counter-cultural individuals such as composer Cornelius Cardew and psychologist Ronald D Laing. Fowler creates densely layered complex portraits that question our relationship to the past. Fowler's use of new and found footage creates a highly structured yet amorphous combination of moments and insightful glimpses that break down traditional approaches to biographical filmmaking. This is a new partnership formed for this proposal to the Annual Award, one that opens up areas of collaboration for all organisations involved. Hepworth Wakefield and Wolverhampton Art Gallery have a mutual desire to further investigate the specificities and histories of their respective locations through our collections and programmes. Once completed the resulting commission will be shared and accessioned jointly between the two organisations.

Leeds Art Gallery (Leeds Museums & Galleries)

Clare Woods creates large-scale, sometimes mural-sized, formally arresting panelled 'landscapes' on aluminium supports using household enamel and gloss paint. She works from photographs, often captured at night and taken at obtuse angles, peering into water-courses, ponds, woodland undergrowths and forests, and, when, abstracted, transferred and rendered into paint, they elicit from the viewer an equivalent response. Landscape paintings were amongst some of Leeds City Gallery's earliest acquisitions in the last quarter of the 19th century, evident in Pre-Raphaelite landscape works by John Atkinson Grimshaw and John William Inchbold, as well as paintings by John Constable, 'plein-air' painting from the School of Fontainebleau (Diaz, Corot, Courbet) as well as post-Impressionist works by Lucien Pissarro, Sisley and Signac, and a tradition subsequently renewed through early 20th century British 'neo-romantic' works - in which Woods sees affinities with her own practice, notably, several works by Paul Nash, John Nash, Sutherland, Piper and Hitchens.

mima, Middlesbrough and the AV Festival

A commissioned work by **John Gerrard** will significantly expand mima's collection by welcoming for the first time 3D computer-generated imagery into its holdings of contemporary drawing, plus for the first time since opening facilitate the acquisition of a non-US artist into its international drawing collection. Whilst 3D computer-generated imagery is used in a wide variety of industries for instance the medical, movie, video game, science, architecture and engineering industries, Gerrard's use of 3D computer-generated imagery is unparalleled in the visual arts. This commission and collaboration with AV Festival aims to test a new model of commissioning, bringing together the expertise of an international Festival alongside the collections knowledge of mima. AV Festival has a strong track record of commissioning artists who work with innovative technologies. mima's interest in the artist stems from its continued interest in drawing and its desire to develop itself as a place of excellence for drawing in the UK. mima's relationship to drawing started with *The Cleveland International Drawing Biennial*. Running from 1973 to 1996.

The Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester

Nico Vascellari's concerns are with Nature, ancient lands, underground cultures, rituals, and vatic sites. He makes his art through performance, often using sculpture, very loud and immersive sound, video, collage and drawing. In some ways, the Whitworth has selected Vascellari because his work is like nothing in our collection. He often uses sound so loud that it disturbs the body, whilst our fine art collection is mostly silent - pieces of paper stained with pencil, ink and watercolour. But, of course, what the Whitworth collection depicts has much in common with Vascellari's imagery. Rock, water, forest and sky are brought together in thousands of pictures by, for example, Dürer, Hollar, William Blake, Turner, Girtin, Gainsborough, Sandby, Palmer, Pissarro, Gauguin and Van Gogh. We at the Whitworth, like Vascellari, seek a new sense of landscape – to make it possible to see historic works differently and also place art of the present within an intelligent and meaningful context.

Notes to editors

1. For more information on short-listed museums and galleries:

The Hepworth Wakefield

<http://www.hepworthwakefield.com/>

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

<http://www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk/wolves>

Film and Video Umbrella

<http://www.fvu.co.uk/>

Leeds Art Gallery (Leeds Museums & Galleries)

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/artgallery/>

Mima, Middlesbrough and the AV Festival

www.visitmima.com

The Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester

<http://www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk/>

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 short-listed 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.

www.contemporaryartsociety.org

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