

Gifting artwork to the Contemporary Art Society: a guide

As advocates of the Contemporary Art Society's work with public collections, our supporters understand the value of sharing contemporary art with everyone. **In addition to monetary gifts, some people choose to donate works of art to the CAS to help us fulfil our charitable mission.**

With over a hundred years' experience of donating contemporary art and craft, and an extensive knowledge of the collections and audiences of our 72 Museum Members across the UK, the CAS is uniquely positioned to match and place great works with the perfect public collection. A broker for philanthropy, sitting between donor and museum, we understand how important a gift of art is to both parties, and how to make it most meaningful.

In 2022/2023 we placed a total of 108 artworks donated or bequeathed to the CAS by 35 artists in 35 different museum collections in the UK. This includes artwork by Grayson Perry for the Guildhall Art Gallery London, Alvaro Barrington for the Towner Eastbourne, and Stacy Lynn Waddell for the Bristol Museum & Art Gallery. In these new public forums, they will be appreciated by thousands of museum visitors and enrich historic collections.

You may wish to consider appointing the Contemporary Art Society to help a work of art or craft enter a public collection, either:

- during your lifetime, or
- in your Will.

Please discuss your wishes with us

Firstly, if you are considering a gift of art, thank you. A discussion with us is the best point to start: we want to ensure we can accommodate your wishes wherever possible, and will be able to advise on the best collection or course of action for your specific work(s). As a small charity, there may be instances in which we are unable to take on a project, but we will be pleased to give guidance where we can.

Planning future gifts

If you are considering leaving us a gift in the future or in your Will, we equally recommend discussing your plans with us. It is worth noting that most museums are unable to guarantee a place in their collection in

advance, but it can be useful to start conversations with the relevant parties in order to assess suitability for a collection and best accommodate your wishes.

It means a lot to us if, in the event we are unable to place a work in a public collection, you provide permission for us to sell the work for the benefit of the Contemporary Art Society. This is because we want to ensure your generous gift is providing the important function you wish it to – that the best contemporary art is available and preserved for future generations. We are a small charity, with no means or financial capacity to store unplaced artwork. **By selling any unplaced work, we can invest the net proceeds in the Contemporary Art Society's Future Fund**, which supports the future work of the CAS in supporting museums and contemporary artists. You can read more about the Future Fund here: <https://contemporaryartsociety.org/support/future-fund>

If you are generously considering leaving artwork to the CAS – either during your lifetime or in your Will – please contact us to ensure that we can accommodate your wishes.

Suggested wording for a Will

Your solicitor will be able to adapt this suggested wording to accommodate your circumstances:

I give to the Contemporary Art Society, registered charity number 208178 of 59 Central Street, London EC1V 3AF, the under-mentioned work(s) of art (hereinafter called 'the work(s) of art'):

(Please list the work(s) of art with enough detail to distinguish and clearly identify each work of art)

(a) Either

(i) The work(s) of art shall be presented to appropriate museums or galleries at the discretion of the Contemporary Art Society

OR

(ii) The work(s) of art shall be presented to *(name(s) of museums or galleries as discussed and agreed with the Contemporary Art Society)*

(b) In the event of the Contemporary Art Society being unable to make such a presentation then the Contemporary Art Society may sell the work(s) of art and the net sale proceeds shall be applied by the trustees of the Contemporary Art Society to further the general purposes of the Contemporary Art Society.

(c) The receipt of the chief executive or another officer of the Contemporary Art Society shall be a complete discharge to my Executors in respect of the transfer of the work(s) of art.

(d) If the Contemporary Art Society ceases to exist, changes its name, or enters into insolvent liquidation before the time that this gift takes effect in possession, the gift shall instead be paid to such a charity as my Executors decide, having regard to the objects that were intended to benefit.

Thank you for considering the Contemporary Art Society.

To find out more about donating a work of art or collection to a museum or gallery via the Contemporary Art Society, please contact us in confidence; we will be delighted to discuss your wishes:


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Charity registration number: 208178

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**contemporary
art society**