

PRESS RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL: Wednesday 27 March 2024, 10:00

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES ACROSS THE UK TO SHARE WORLD-LEADING COLLECTIONS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH NEW PROJECTS

- More people will experience inspiring art on their doorsteps through new projects supported by Art Fund.
- Jane Austen's travelling writing desk and rare seascapes by LS Lowry among the treasures travelling to museums across the country through latest round of the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund, announced today.
- And arts and heritage organisations from every UK nation revealed as partners for the development phase of Art Fund's new collaborative touring programme, Going Places.



High-res press images available for download:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/l7pc3xlhxy9iltub0k3h/h?rlkey=2uw1sxd4n3mfq6r8jewiv0kz&dl=0>

New projects supported by Art Fund will see museums and galleries across the UK forging new partnerships to share their world-leading collections with local communities.

Announced today, Wednesday 27 March, 12 regional galleries and museums – from Pier Arts Centre in Orkney to The MAC in Belfast and York Army Museum – have been awarded grants for new exhibitions through the latest round of the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund, supported by the Garfield Weston Foundation, with major loans from national institutions including the National Portrait Gallery and Tate.

And 23 arts and heritage organisations have been selected to take part in the development phase of Art Fund's Going Places – a new UK-wide programme that will engage underrepresented audiences with museum collections through collaborative touring exhibitions, with lead support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Jenny Waldman, Director, Art Fund, said:

"We're delighted to help museums and galleries work together to share their collections with local communities across the UK through innovative and sustainable approaches to exhibition-making. Through the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund and Going Places, there will be more opportunities than ever for people to enjoy exceptional art on their doorsteps.

"We're incredibly grateful to the Garfield Weston Foundation for their generous support towards the Weston Loan Programme, which has supported over 90 organisations since the scheme launched seven years ago. And it's thanks to The National Lottery Heritage Fund that museums from all corners of the UK – from Tŷ Pawb in Wrexham to Penlee House in Penzance – will collaborate and work with local communities to tell new stories through Going Places. Our National Art Pass members help Art Fund make all these initiatives possible."

Weston Loan Programme

Art Fund and the Garfield Weston Foundation have today announced the latest round of exhibitions to be supported by the Weston Loan Programme – the first UK-wide grant programme designed to directly fund and empower smaller museums to borrow major works from national or major lending museums and galleries.

The twelve new recipients include: Nottingham Contemporary for the first major retrospective on Black British artist Donald Rodney; The Granary Gallery, Maltings (Berwick) Trust for an exhibition exploring Lowry's lifelong fascination with the sea; and Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery for an exhibition telling the little-known story of American art collector Peggy Guggenheim's time living near Petersfield.

Major institutions loaning objects through the scheme include the National Portrait Gallery, the British Library, Arts Council Collection, Tate, National Trust, and the British Museum.

Highlights of loans made possible through the programme, now in its eighth year, include: Jane Austen's writing desk travelling to God's House Tower in Southampton as part of a celebration of the writer's 250th birthday; seascapes by LS Lowry on show in Berwick where the artist was a regular visitor, capturing the town's views of the North Sea; and two 14th century ewers (lidded jugs) which travelled via trade routes to Kumasi and the Asante court in southern Ghana which are being loaned by the British Museum for an exhibition at York Army Museum.

In addition, the Weston Loan Programme has awarded research and development grants to Amersham Museum, Southwark Park Galleries, The National Memorial Arboretum and Lighthouse in Poole. These grants will support each organisation to develop their plans for ambitious loans projects, giving them the necessary time and space to undertake research, carry out consultation, engage with institutions, and refine proposals.

A total of £308,606 has been awarded in this round, bringing the total so far to almost £1.6 million across 93 organisations since the scheme began in 2017.

The Weston Loan Programme increases access to notable objects, shares resources across the country and brings lasting benefits to borrowers, lenders and audiences. The programme was conceived and continues to be generously supported by the Garfield Weston Foundation. It is continuing for another three years thanks to a £1 million grant, taking this important partnership to its 10th anniversary in 2027.

Sophia Weston, Deputy Chair and Trustee of the Garfield Weston Foundation, said:

"Encompassing museums, galleries and historic buildings, this year's awardees are a great demonstration of the aims of the Weston Loan Programme - bringing fascinating art and objects to places where they can tell resonant and engaging stories to new audiences. From works by some of our most celebrated artists such as Lowry and Turner, to precious historical items like Jane Austen's writing desk we are thrilled to support the display of these treasures across the UK."

Going Places

Announced today, 23 arts and heritage organisations have been selected to take part in the development phase of Art Fund's Going Places - a new UK-wide programme that will engage underrepresented audiences with museum collections through collaborative touring exhibitions.

Participating organisations span the breadth of the UK, from the Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum to Inverness Museum & Art Gallery, Tŷ Pawb in Wrexham and Penlee House Gallery & Museum in Penzance.

Seven networks have been established to develop plans for two touring exhibitions over five years. Local communities will be involved in shaping exhibition themes and outreach programming and will bring their voices to each display by reinterpreting collections to tell new stories. If Art Fund is successful with a subsequent delivery phase application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund, and with further fundraising, the networks will go on to produce their exhibitions with audiences across the country from 2025-2030.

One network of organisations from each devolved nation (Carmarthenshire Museums; Inverness Museum and Art Gallery; the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum) will explore local heritage and traditions of making – such as Irish linen, Scottish wool and Welsh tin-making – through objects from their collections including textiles, costume and paintings.

Going Places builds on the recommendations of the 2022 research report [Going places: Touring and shared exhibitions in the UK](#), commissioned by Art Fund and Creative Scotland, revealing that touring and shared exhibition partnerships are a key way to meet the audience demand for high-quality, accessible exhibitions.

The development of Going Places is made possible with support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and additional support from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

Stuart McLeod, Director of England - London & South at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

"It's fantastic to hear that the first heritage organisations have been chosen for Going Places. This project will touch all corners of the UK and will allow these museums to come together to develop their skills and resources to plan towards their future, particularly through touring exhibitions. These museums are integral to telling the stories of the places we call home and give communities a chance to engage with the heritage that is on our doorsteps. We are looking forward to working with Art Fund as we support their application for a full grant at a later date."

Media enquiries:

Zosia Gamgee, Communications Manager, Art Fund

zgamgee@artfund.org 020 7225 4842

High-res press images available for download:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/l7pc3xlhqxy9iltub0k3h/h?rlkey=2uw1sxhd4n3mfq6r8jewiv0kz&dl=0>

NOTES TO EDITORS

Exhibitions supported through this round of the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund (in chronological order):

Donald Rodney: Visceral Canker

Spike Island, Bristol, England (24 May – 8 September 2024)

Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, England (28 September 2024 – 5 January 2025)

Whitechapel Gallery, London, England (February – May 2025)

The first major retrospective on Black British artist Donald Rodney (1961–98).

Lowry and the Sea

The Granary Gallery, Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland, England

25 May - 13 October 2024

Exhibition exploring the artist's connection to Berwick and his lifelong fascination with the sea. It includes works on loan from The Lowry, Salford, Arts Council Collection and the Royal Academy of the Arts and is the first curated exhibition of his works in the town for 10 years.

Peggy Guggenheim: Petersfield to Palazzo

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery, Petersfield, Hampshire, England

15 June – 5 October 2024

Exhibition telling the little known story of the American art collector and self-proclaimed 'art-addict' Peggy Guggenheim's time living near Petersfield between 1934 and 1939, during which time she opened her first gallery and began collecting modern art, which is now the world-famous Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice.

Mary Robinson: Actress, Mistress, Writer, Radical

Chawton House, Hampshire, England

2 September 2024 – 21 April 2025

Bringing together two opposing portraits of the 18th-century actress, celebrity and early feminist writer Mary Robinson (1757-1800), for the first exhibition devoted to her life and work.

I See His Blood Upon the Rose

The MAC, Belfast, Northern Ireland

November 2024 - March 2025

A major exhibition which traces the history of the flower in art, its evolution from botanical illustrations to the opulent still-life paintings of the 17th century, their adoption as symbols of political influence, revolution, and human control over nature.

Jane Austen's 250th anniversary year

God's House Tower, Southampton, England

November 2024 until February 2025

Jane Austen's travelling writing desk will be coming back to Southampton for the first time since she lived in the city over 200 years ago. The famous novelist's travelling writing desk will be displayed in God's House Tower, just a stone's throw from where she lived during her time in Southampton. This marks the start of a city-wide programme of activities and events celebrating the writer's 250th birthday in 2025. 'a space' arts has worked with Southampton Forward to secure the desk on loan from the British Library.

Sheila Fell: Cumberland on Canvas

Tullie, Carlisle, England

23 November 2024 - 15 March 2025

Sheila Fell: Cumberland on Canvas will be the first large scale exhibition of Fell's work in over 30 years. The exhibition will bring together loans from across the country from major national partners as well as a broad range of private collections, many of which may not have been seen publicly before. Despite living in London and being a major player in the art world at the time, Fell always returned to her native Cumberland for inspiration.

Bet Low Centenary Exhibition

Pier Arts Centre, Stromness, Orkney, Scotland

Jan – June 2025

A collaboration between The Glasgow School of Art and the Pier Arts Centre in Stromness marking the centenary of the birth of the Scottish artist Bet Low (1924-2007)

All Creatures Great and Small: JMW Turner's Birds and Beasts

Turner's House, Twickenham, England

July – October 2025

Exhibition bringing together a number of works by Turner featuring animals and birds, presenting these lesser-seen pieces in the country retreat that the artist designed and in which he lived from the building's completion in 1813, until its sale in 1826.

Object Journeys

York Army Museum

September 2025 - February 2026

Exhibition highlighting the range of objects found in military museums, reappraising the motivations for military collecting, and giving a voice to alternative interpretations of the objects' journeys.

Major displays at Kirkcudbright Galleries and the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum have also been supported in the round, with details to be announced soon.

Going Places: development phase partners and networks

Founding the Future

- Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, Bournemouth
- Watts Gallery – Artists' Village, Guildford
- The Bowes Museum, County Durham

Communities of Making

- Carmarthenshire Museums
- Inverness Museum & Art Gallery
- Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum

New Faces New Focus

- Aberdeenshire Museums Service
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (FE McWilliam Gallery; Armagh County Museum; The Market Place Theatre & Arts Centre)
- Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool

Four Lanterns

- Blackwell – The Arts & Crafts house (Lakeland Arts), Windermere
- Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh
- Tŷ Pawb, Wrexham
- William Morris Gallery, London

The Journeys We Take

- Hartlepool Art Gallery
- The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery (University of Leeds)
- Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Green Spaces, Shared Places

- Arlington Court and the National Trust Carriage Museum, Exmoor

- Dales Countryside Museum, Yorkshire
- Sunderland Culture
- The National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), Staffordshire

Long Distance Connections (Female Artists)

- Museums Worcestershire
- Penlee House Gallery & Museum, Penzance
- OnFife

Art Fund

Art Fund is the national charity for art, helping museums and people to share in great art and culture for 120 years. Art Fund raises millions of pounds every year to help the UK's museums, galleries and historic houses. The charity funds art, enabling the UK's museums to buy and share exciting works, connect with their communities, and inspire the next generation. It builds audiences, with its National Art Pass opening doors to great culture. And it amplifies the museum sector through the world's largest museum prize, Museum of the Year, and creative events that bring the UK's museums together. Art Fund is people-powered by 135,000 members who buy a National Art Pass, and the donors, trusts and foundations who support the charity.

The National Art Pass provides free or discounted entry to over 850 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and Art Quarterly magazine.

www.artfund.org

Garfield Weston Foundation

Established 65 years ago in 1958, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded, grant-making charity which supports causes across the UK and now donates over £90million each year. Since it was established, it has exceeded donations of more than £1.5 billion, of which well over half has been given in the past ten years alone.

One of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder, and they take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation's income comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Ryvita, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc, of which the Foundation holds a majority shareholding) and Fortnum & Mason, amongst others. This successful model still endures today; as the businesses have grown over time, so too have the charitable donations, which is testament to its thoughtful and long-term approach.

Known for its transparency, flexibility and straightforward way of working, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities from small community organisations to large national institutions. Over 2,000 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation's grants.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

*National Lottery Heritage Fund grant applications over £250,000 are assessed in two rounds. Going Places has initially been granted round one development funding of £252,839 by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals are then considered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund at second round, where a final decision is

made on the full funding award.

As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033.

Over the next ten years, the Heritage Fund aims to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment.

The Heritage Fund helps protect, transform and share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are.

The Heritage Fund is passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund www.heritagefund.org.uk.