

Selected Biographies



Dr. Maria Balshaw

Director of the Whitworth, University of Manchester and Manchester City Galleries

Maria Balshaw is Director of the Whitworth, part of The University of Manchester, and the Manchester City Galleries.

As Director of these two major institutions, holding internationally important collections of fine and decorative art of more than 80,000 objects, she is responsible for the artistic and strategic vision for each gallery. An academic by training she has worked as an administrator and Director within the cultural sector for the past 10 years. Alongside her role as Director of Manchester City Galleries and Whitworth Art Gallery Maria has recently taken on the role of Strategic Lead for Culture for Manchester City Council. In April 2014 the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport appointed Maria as a board member of Arts Council England. The appointment is for a term of 4 years, from April 2014 to March 2018.



Stuart McKnight & Gillian McInnes and Simon Usher

MUMA (McInnes Usher McKnight Architects)

MUMA (McInnes Usher McKnight Architects) was established in 2000 and since then has delivered a number of high profile, public projects.

MUMA's current projects include an extension to and refurbishment of the Whitworth, in Manchester, a third project at the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Community Centre and Nursery at the North West Cambridge Development for the University of Cambridge. MUMA has been selected to be on the British Museum's framework for 'Major Exhibitions.'

In the past, MUMA has completed the 2004 restaurant at The Royal Academy of Arts, a new cafe for the Victoria and Albert Museum, the extension and refurbishment of the original Grade II listed Newlyn Art Gallery and the conversion of a redundant telephone exchange in Penzance into a contemporary art gallery, both for Newlyn Art Gallery. These galleries, though modest in scale and budget, have won numerous awards, including two RIBA and two RIBA Town and Country awards and were both included in the Architect's Journal and Channel 4 Top 50 Buildings of the Millennium in 2008. MUMA's new Medieval & Renaissance Galleries at the V&A opened in December 2009 to critical acclaim, attracting interest from around the world. In 2011 MUMA won the British Design Awards' *Architectural Achievement of the Year* and the *Royal Scottish Academy Medal for Architecture*.



Sarah Price

Garden Designer

Sarah Price has rapidly established herself as one of the most prominent garden designers in Britain. Drawing on a prior training in fine art and a life-long love of wild and natural environments, her gardens have an immersive quality and are often described as painterly.

Sarah co-designed the 2012 Gardens at the Olympic Park in east London and remains at the core of the team planning the post-Games legacy design and maintenance of the gardens. Among other current projects are landscape designs for the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester and consultancy for a six acre Elizabethan garden in the Cotswolds and for a new Maggie's Centre in Southampton.

Her previous work includes designing gardens for private clients, wildlife gardens for two primary schools in Lincolnshire, an art installation in the grounds of Tattershall Castle, a Grade 1 listed National Trust property and the Old English Garden with the gardening charity Thrive at Battersea Park, South West London.

Sarah designed the Daily Telegraph Garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2012 and was awarded a gold medal. Her previous gardens at RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2007 and 2008 were awarded silver medals. She won a gold medal at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show in 2006.

Sarah graduated with a First class BA (Hons) degree in Fine Art at Nottingham Trent University in 2002 before working as a full time gardener at Hampton Court Palace.



Cornelia Parker

Artist

Cornelia Parker (1956, Cheshire) has had solo exhibitions at Baltic, Gateshead; Ikon Gallery, Birmingham; Serpentine Gallery, London; Wurttembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart; Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin; ICA, Philadelphia; Aspen Museum of Art, Colorado; Chicago Arts Club and ICA Boston. The Whitworth's 2014 exhibition will be a major mid-career retrospective.

Parker's work is represented in many international collections including Tate, London, The Caixa Foundation, Barcelona/ Madrid, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. She was nominated for the Turner Prize in 1997.

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