

Press Release  
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## Major Funding Programme for Transformational Arts Projects Launched by Outset Partners

- The Whitworth, Van Abbemuseum, Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A), Hayward Gallery, Chisenhale Gallery, Spike Island, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Kunsthalle Basel and International Curators Forum awarded first grants
- Fundraising aim of £1 million to be allocated over a five-year funding programme to support visionary projects led by public institutions, with a total of three Transformative and 15 Core Grants
- Funds directed by 10 individual Outset Partners, engaged in a consensus-building process. Up to 5 additional Partners are welcome for future rounds

**Outset Contemporary Art Fund**, the leading international philanthropic enterprise, announces the recipients of six grants in a major new arts funding programme from its new accelerator unit, **Outset Partners**. In its first year, grants totalling **£275,000** are awarded across a range of agenda-setting UK and European museums, galleries and organisations, to support challenging new art projects with a demonstrable transformative aspect for the creative ecosystem.

A one-of-a-kind **Transformative Grant** is designed to afford the opportunity for one significant project to radically re-think the art institution of the future. **£150,000 is awarded jointly to the Whitworth, the University of Manchester and Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven** for their initiative, *The Constituent Museum: Collecting Relations and the Transformational Potential of Arte Útil*. Using the methodology of Arte Útil ('art as a tool' or 'useful art') developed by artist Tania Bruguera over the last ten years, the two museums will radically transform their core protocols by redrawing relationships with local constituency groups, creating an agency for them to inform the museums' collecting, curating and presenting.

*'We are delighted to have this generous support from Outset,' commented Charles Esche (Director of Van Abbemuseum) and Alistair Hudson (Director of the Whitworth and Manchester Art Gallery), 'As an organisation dedicated to supporting public institutions with private means it has become a vital stimulus for creating and presenting contemporary art. Outset values art as a public good and positive contribution to society. Our museums are also committed to those goals and we will use the Transformational Grant to experiment with ways to repurpose the museum as a new social power plant to collectively generate ways of navigating the huge economic and political transition ahead.'*

Drawing on Outset's sixteen years of expertise in catalytic arts philanthropy, **Outset Partners** recognises that public art institutions are in a position of responsibility to address changes in society yet often face a gap in funding to realise their most ambitious visions for the future.

*'What is motivating today's art institutions, and who do they want to be tomorrow?' said **Candida Gertler OBE (Co-Founder, Director, Trustee and Outset Director of Studiomakers Initiative)**. 'With the open call for visionary projects, the Outset Partners were able to survey the field of cultural ambition, hear and respond to the overpowering desire from museums to transform themselves, to bring voices previously on the margins into the heart of their activities. All of the chosen seven organisations demonstrated the courage to listen to the world around them and to be open to disruption of traditional power dynamics between institutions, artists and the public.*

*'From school children holding world class design in their hands, to museum constituencies taking control of the future of collecting and exhibition making, these organisations are embracing new models and art practices with an emphasis on openness, collaboration and a society-wide journey towards a worthwhile future. Outset Partners believe it is vital to champion such brave, sensitive and intelligent transformation, and will support a remarkable body of work in the next few years.'*

Five additional **Core Grants of £25,000 each** are awarded to public institutions for a range of projects that demonstrate crucial areas of support for the public, artists and curators. According to the Outset ethos these can be through enabling innovative exhibitions and artistic productions with an international reach; empowering educational initiatives or providing professional development opportunities; institutions enriching public collections; or projects that enhance the creative infrastructure through providing workspaces and strengthening communities.

The 2019 Core Grants are awarded to:

- **Chisenhale Gallery** to support the realisation of *the destructors*, a major new film commission by London-based artist **Imran Perretta**, enabling the pooling of resources to support, mentor and develop the practice of a young artist at the beginning of their career. The film is co-commissioned by Chisenhale Gallery, London; **Spike Island, Bristol; the Whitworth, The University of Manchester; and BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead.**
- **Hayward Gallery** to support the exhibition, *Kader Attia: The Museum of Emotion* (13 February – 6 May 2019), the first major UK exhibition by French-Algerian artist, Kader Attia. Spanning a wide range of media, the works in the exhibition inventively explore the ways in which colonialism continues to shape how Western societies represent and engage with non-Western cultures.
- The **International Curators Forum (ICF)** has been awarded £25,000 per annum over the next three years, to support the research and development of a second iteration of the *Diaspora Pavilion*. First staged at the Venice Biennale in 2017, the Diaspora Pavilion was curated by David Bailey and Jessica Taylor, co-founded by David Bailey, Nicola Green, Peter Clayton and David Lammy, and was conceived as a challenge to the prevalence of national pavilions within the structure of an international biennale.

- **Kunsthalle Basel** to support the first institutional exhibition in Europe of **Dora Budor** (24 May – 11 August 2019). The young Croatian-born artist (b. 1984) presents an ambitious and experimental site-specific exhibition. Using sound, dust, and environmental data, Budor turns the exhibition into a reactive biotope, acting as its own ecosystem.
- The **V&A** to support its flagship national schools programme, **DesignLab Nation**, launched in September 2017. Working in five regions, Sheffield, Sunderland, Stoke-on-Trent, Blackburn and Coventry, **DesignLab Nation** brings together secondary schools, museums and local industry, complemented by loans of V&A objects, to support the teaching of art, design and technology education. Highlights for 2018/19 include a ceramic tile by the Turner prize-winning artist Grayson Perry to Blackburn Museum, a brightly coloured scarf by luxury fashion designer Mary Katrantzou to the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry and an assortment of works by Christopher Dresser to Museums Sheffield.

Founded in 2003, **Outset Contemporary Art Fund** is the only international and independent charity pooling donations from patron circles and corporate partners to support new art for the widest possible audiences.

The Outset Partners were formed in 2018, a new community of dynamic philanthropists made up of: Micaela Boas, Francise Chang, Candida Gertler OBE, Veronique Parke, Bianca Roden, Mercedes Zobel, and other individuals who wish to remain anonymous. Dr Kirstie Skinner acts in the role of Outset Partners Researcher in Residence, crafting a framework for Outset Partners' deliberations and decision-making, and supporting their uniquely iterative approach to funding transformation.

## Ends

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## Notes to Editors

### **Outset Contemporary Art Fund**

Outset Contemporary Art Fund is the only international philanthropic organisation which has championed innovative private/public partnerships for over 15 years, in support of the creative ecosystem. Outset achieves this vital role by pooling donations from entrepreneurial patrons and engaged partners to support new art for the widest possible audiences. Addressing the complex pressures facing the creative community globally today, Outset's presence in 9 countries supports art projects benefiting urban and regional communities, artists and curators, keynote publications, and the Outset-led initiative Studiometers, in

support of the Mayor of London's mission to safeguard affordable space for artists and creative professionals for the long term.

## **Outset Partners**

Drawing on Outset's sixteen years of pioneering expertise in arts philanthropy, the Outset Partners were formed in 2018, a new community of dynamic philanthropists, committed to recognising where vital support is needed at the core of the creative ecosystem.

A pioneering model for patronage, the Outset Partners are a group with a marked international profile, including individuals from France, Colombia, Japan, Taiwan, Brazil, the Philippines, Germany, Greece, USA and the United Kingdom. All are experts and entrepreneurs in their respective fields of philanthropy, education, the art market, fashion, finance, museums, architecture, and jewellery, amongst many other activities, focusing together on sustainability and development of institutions, the inclusion of diverse communities, important educational initiatives, and inspiring projects internationally.

The application and selection process for the Outset Partners Grants Programme is managed by the Outset team. The judging panel is composed of Outset Partners who preside over it in close consultation with Outset Partners' Associate Steering Committee: Nicolette Cavaleros, Roland Cowan, Maria & Theodore Fatsis, Didi Forster, Sylvain & Dominique Levy, Averill Ogden, Anna Shields, Fumiko Yamazaki, and others who wish to remain anonymous.

## **The Whitworth**

The Whitworth is proudly part of The University of Manchester and serves as a bridge between the University and the people of the city; a place to meet, play and learn in public. Its mission is to use art for social change; founded in 1889 as The Whitworth Institute and Park in memory of the industrialist Sir Joseph Whitworth for "the perpetual gratification of the people of Manchester", with clear practical aims to counteract the malaises of inner-city life and to educate and inspire a city of makers and manufacturing.

The Whitworth re-opened to the public in 2015 after a major £17 million redevelopment by architects MUMA. It has welcomed over one million visitors since re-opening, and more than doubled its previous annual records. The redevelopment doubled the public space and created state-of-the-art new facilities to house the collection of over 55,000 works of art and included expanded gallery spaces, a study centre, learning studio, and a collections centre. The gallery was crowned Art Fund Museum of Year 2015, nominated for the prestigious Stirling Prize and named Best Emerging Cultural Destination in Europe.

The gallery has historically been at the centre of civic and cultural life and this is also its future. [www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth)

## **Van Abbemuseum**

The Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven is a leading Dutch art institution and a founding member of the L'Internationale confederation of museums. It has an international collection of more than 2,700 artworks, including key ensembles by El Lissitzky, Rene Daniëls, Nedko Solakov, Hito Steyerl and Gülsün Karamustafa. The collection includes classic modernist works by Braque, Chagall, Picasso, LeWitt, Judd and Nauman. The relation between art and social change is an important topic for our exhibitions and collection presentations. Hospitality, storytelling and internationalism are important for the Van Abbemuseum and we encourage both ourselves and the visitors to think about the collection as a cultural "memory"; the role

of art in globalisation; and how we include many different communities in our activities. We always strive to be a source of wonder, inspiration and imagination for our users.

## **Chisenhale Gallery**

Chisenhale Gallery commissions and produces contemporary art, supporting international and UK-based artists to pursue new directions and make their most ambitious work to date. For audiences, the gallery provides opportunities to experience this process of art production through participation and critical reflection. The gallery operates as a production agency, exhibition hall, research centre and community resource. Chisenhale Gallery has an award winning, 36-year history as one of London's most innovative forums for contemporary art. With a reputation for identifying new talent, the gallery is committed to engaging diverse audiences with a focus on young people. Chisenhale Gallery is a registered charity and part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

## **Spike Island**

Spike Island is an international centre for the development of contemporary art and design, located close to Bristol's harbourside. It is a place where artists and the public can meet, enabling audiences to engage with artists' research and production. Within the 80,000 square foot building, Spike Island offers visitors a year-round programme of internationally relevant exhibitions, events and activities, as well as providing working space for artists, designers and creative businesses. The link between the production and presentation of art on this scale and under one roof is unique within the UK. Spike Island's programme emphasises the commissioning of new ambitious work and often provides artists their first significant gallery exhibition in the UK. Production services support the development of commissions, including in-house post production facilities for artists' film and video, audio visual technical services and equipment provision for ambitious moving image installations, on site fabrication workshops, resin rooms, skilled art technicians and fabricators.

## **BALTIC**

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art is a major international gallery situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over eight million visitors since 2002. BALTIC presents outstanding, experimental and inspiring world-class contemporary art across 2,600 square metres, making it Europe's largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC's distinctive and ambitious programme of free entry, changing exhibitions has included the work of over 450 artists from 60 nationalities in 220 exhibitions including Michael Dean, Lubaina Himid, Heather Phillipson and Rasheed Araeen. BALTIC is a registered charity and its mission is to create greater understanding of the world through outstanding, experimental and inspiring contemporary art which has power, relevance and meaning for individuals and communities.

## **Hayward Gallery**

Hayward Gallery, part of Southbank Centre, has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists including major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions. They include those by Bridget Riley, Martin Creed, Antony Gormley, Tracey Emin, Andy Warhol, Ed Ruscha, Jeremy Deller, Anish Kapoor, René Magritte, Francis Bacon and David Shrigley, as well as influential group exhibitions such as *Africa Remix*, *Light Show*, *Psycho Buildings* and most recently *Space*

*Shifters*. Opened by Her Majesty, The Queen in July 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. The Brutalist building was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron and is named after Sir Isaac Hayward, a former leader of the London County Council.

## **International Curators Forum (ICF)**

The International Curators Forum (ICF) is a London-based organisation focused on presenting professional development programmes for emerging arts practitioners, curating exhibitions and events that address diasporic culture in a global context, as well as connecting professionals around the world through organised international trips and residencies. Past projects include 'Black Jacobins: The Caribbean Pavilion' at the 2010 Liverpool Biennial, the 2012 symposium and exhibition programme 'Black Diaspora Visual Art' in Barbados and Martinique, the 2016-2017 international knowledge-sharing platform 'Curating the International Diaspora,' and the 2016-2018 professional development programmes 'Diaspora Pavilion and Beyond the Frame.' ICF-curated film and performance events include 'Island and Monster' by artist Sheena Rose at the Royal Academy in 2016, 'Sensational Bodies' as part of the 2018 Jerwood Staging Series and 'Migrating Cities' at Tai Kwun Art Centre in Hong Kong commissioned by UAL in 2019.

## **Kunsthalle Basel**

Kunsthalle Basel commissions and produces ambitious, thought-provoking art and exhibitions by emerging artists. Established in 1872, the institution is renowned for its nearly 150-year history of engaging with pioneering practices in contemporary art. The exhibitions planned for 2019 expand on this tradition, nearly all including newly commissioned artworks while supporting artists to create some of their most audacious projects to date.

## **V&A**

The V&A is the world's leading museum of art, design and performance, with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity. It was established to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, the V&A's collections, which span over 5000 years of human creativity in virtually every medium and from many parts of the world, continue to intrigue, inspire and inform.