

The Whitworth receives a significant gift from Japanese philanthropist to support new global collaborations



Image credit: Mr Hiroyuki Maki and Professor Sook-Kyung Lee. Photographer: Mr Horatio

The Whitworth, part of The University of Manchester, has received a transformative donation from Mr Hiroyuki Maki, philanthropist and executive based in Japan.

The significant gift will enable the Whitworth to extend the ambition of its global programmes, facilitating cross-cultural collaboration and artistic exchanges between Japan and the UK, over a three-year period.

The Whitworth is driven by a vision to explore the role of art in building a more resilient, socially responsible and caring society. Through its award-winning exhibition and civic engagement programmes, the gallery tells new and lesser-known stories from multiple global perspectives, deepening public understanding of the relationships between art, culture and community.

Mr Maki's extraordinary donation will strengthen the Whitworth's mission to foster international collaboration while championing the diversity and transcultural connections that shape art and its histories.

Professor Sook-Kyung Lee, Director of the Whitworth, said: "We are deeply grateful to Mr Hiroyuki Maki for his remarkable gift to the gallery. His donation will enable the Whitworth to embark on bold and ambitious artistic endeavours, enhancing our efforts exploring

the Whitworth

interconnected stories of contemporary art across the world and inspiring wider communities."

Mr Hiroyuki Maki, Philanthropist and CEO of Buffalo Inc., said: "The Whitworth's dedication to cultural exchange and contemporary creativity reflects values I hold close - education, cultural innovation, and international collaboration. I am proud to support an institution whose vision aligns with mine and which provides opportunities for international art and audiences to connect in new ways."



Image credit: exterior view The Whitworth, The University of Manchester. Photo courtesy: Michael Pollard.

Professor Duncan Ivison, President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, added: "This extraordinary gift will make a lasting impact on the Whitworth and our whole University community. As one of our amazing cultural institutions it's a place that connects knowledge with our communities and brings our civic purpose to life. This gift also shows what is possible when visionary supporters work side by side with us – we open up culture, spark new ways of learning and inspire the next generations."

Mr. Maki's philanthropic efforts span education, international development, cultural preservation, and youth opportunity. His support for the Whitworth continues his commitment to advancing global dialogue through the arts.

NOTES TO EDITORS

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About the Whitworth

The Whitworth is proudly part of The University of Manchester, operating as a convening space between the University and the people of the city. Founded in 1889 for "the perpetual gratification of the people of Manchester" it continues this mission today in new contexts. The gallery, its park and gardens are home to the collection of over 60,000 works of art, textiles, sculptures and wallpapers and provides a platform for artists from around the world. The Whitworth is driven by a vision to actively seek and manifest connections between art, creativity, and their role in developing a more resilient and caring society through its exhibitions and award-winning civic engagement programme.

Gallery opening times: Tuesday to Sunday 10am-5pm, Thursday late opening until 9pm
www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester is recognised globally for its pioneering research, outstanding teaching and learning, and commitment to social responsibility. Part of the Russell Group, we're ranked 34th in the QS World University Rankings, 2025 (6th in the UK) and 52nd in the Academic Ranking of World Universities, 2024.

The power of our social and environmental impact has been recognised on a global scale as the only university in the top ten in both the QS World University Sustainability Rankings and Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, for our contribution towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our university is a powerhouse of research and discovery; 26 Nobel laureates are among our former staff and students, and we were ranked fifth for research power – the quality and scale of research and impact – in the Research Excellence Framework (REF), 2021.

Ranked 20th most international university in the world according to Times Higher Education (2025), our community includes more than 44,000 students, 12,800 staff and 550,000 alumni from 190 countries, working together to tackle the world's biggest challenges.

We're one of the most popular institutions in the UK for undergraduate applications, according to UCAS, and were the most targeted university by the UK's leading employers in 2024 (The Graduate Market). Learn more at: www.manchester.ac.uk