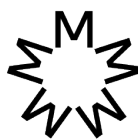


Press Release



Art Fund_
Museum of
the Year 2018
Winner



GLASGOW
WOMEN'S
LIBRARY

For Immediate Release

Glasgow Women's Library is Art Fund Museum of the Year 2018

Glasgow Women's Library (GWL) – the only Accredited Museum in the UK dedicated to women's lives, histories and achievements – is Art Fund Museum of the Year 2018.

This is the first time a museum particularly focussed on equalities has been nominated, and the first time a Scottish museum has won this, the largest and most prestigious award in the museum world.

The announcement was made at a ceremony at the Victoria and Albert Museum on the evening of Thursday 5th July. Art Fund Museum of the Year is awarded annually to one outstanding museum, which, in the opinion of the judges, has shown exceptional imagination, innovation and achievement in the preceding 12 months. As part of the prize, Glasgow Women's Library has been awarded £100,000.

Adele Patrick, Lifelong Learning and Creative Development Manager, said:

'Being chosen as the winner of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2018 is both a huge privilege and a remarkable achievement for Glasgow Women's Library.

It follows a watershed year that saw the museum's profile soar, its impact significantly expand, and heightened recognition across the UK and beyond marking its importance as a unique phenomenon with a singular voice among museums.

This award does not only recognise GWL's innovation and exceptional achievements, it celebrates and endorses the museum's very core values, based on equality, diversity and inclusion.

We thank Art Fund and the judges for this brave decision. During 2017 we witnessed a year that brought the #metoo and #timesup movements to the fore, a surge of activity around the Centenary of the Representation of the People's Act, and intensified global debates on equality and feminism. At GWL there was an unprecedented increase in public, media and press interest in the records, artefacts, representations and stories of contemporary and historical activism around women's lives and intersectional feminism. GWL's purpose, values, innovative governance, public events programming and outstanding collection can be seen in this context – coming into its own after 27 years – and is now vividly modelling a museum of acute relevance.

This award to Glasgow Women's Library also shows that Museum of the Year is not just about rewarding sizeable capital refurbishment projects. It demonstrates that museums can provide much more than a 'good day out and then exit through the gift shop' experience – we hear time and again that Glasgow Women's Library profoundly changes people's lives.

We have been overwhelmed by the scale of support for our #MyMuseum public engagement programme during this, the Museum of The Year process – a campaign that took on a life of its own with supporters across the country, from local residents to Turner Prize winners, from our Adult Literacy Project learners to academic researchers, proudly declaring why GWL is an important, life-changing museum to them. With this historic win we are now looking forward to welcoming even more people who we hope will be keen to enjoy our, collections, exhibitions and events'.

Glasgow Women's Library is the only Accredited Museum in the UK dedicated to women's lives, histories and achievements and is a Recognised Collection of National Significance. Items in the collection are all donated, making them a rich, diverse and coherent assemblage of artefacts and archives exemplifying the lives of women, charting their historical and contemporary achievements and contributions. From knitting patterns, recipe books and Girls' Annuals, to Suffragette memorabilia and contemporary campaigning materials such as the recent Repeal the Eighth campaign in Ireland, the constantly growing collection contextualizes the linkages across the many spheres that women inhabit within the 'personal' and the 'political.' With items that date from the early nineteenth century, our collection champions, celebrates and teaches us how women have shaped lives, families, communities and the country.

The judges for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2018 were: Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund Director and Chair of the Judges; Ian Blatchford, Director of the Science Museum Group; BBC's Arts Correspondent, Rebecca Jones; Artist Melanie Manchot; and Monisha Shah, Art Fund trustee and Chair of Rose Bruford College of Theatre and Performance.

The Art Fund Museum of the Year 2018 runners-up are Brooklands Museum, Weybridge; Ferens Art Gallery, Hull; The Postal Museum, London; and Tate St Ives.

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Notes to Editors:

Glasgow Women's Library

Glasgow Women's Library is the only Accredited Museum in the UK dedicated to women's lives, histories and achievements, and is a designated Recognised Collection of National Significance with a lending library, archive collections and innovative programmes of public events and learning opportunities. It is a change maker in the Library, Archives and Museum sectors, delivering ground breaking work on equalities and public engagement linked to its inspiring collections. In 2017 Glasgow Women's Library launched Equality in Progress, a programme of research and events drawing on its own ground breaking work with the aim of addressing issues of exclusion evident in the cultural and museum sectors.

Open to all, it is multi award-winning, grown from the grass roots, and impacting on its neighbourhood whilst attracting partnerships and visitors from around the world. GWL is located in the heart of Glasgow's regenerating East End neighbourhood, in the top 5% most deprived areas of Scotland. It delivers public events across Scotland and in a range of outreach settings, including H M Prisons. GWL is loved, visited and used by people from around the world and around the corner. Involving creatives since launching in 1991, GWL

commands recognition and respect for the quality of its environment and its pioneering participatory programmes. GWL is now an exemplar of an enterprising museum resource.

www.womenslibrary.org.uk @womenslibrary

Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. In the past five years alone Art Fund has given £34 million to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections. It also helps museums share their collections with wider audiences by supporting a range of tours and exhibitions, and makes additional grants to support the training and professional development of curators. Art Fund is independently funded, with the core of its income provided by 139,000 members who receive the National Art Pass and enjoy free entry to over 320 museums, galleries and historic places across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions and subscription to Art Quarterly magazine. In addition to grant-giving, Art Fund's support for museums includes Art Fund Museum of the Year (won by The Hepworth Wakefield in 2017) and a range of digital platforms.

Find out more about Art Fund and the National Art Pass at www.artfund.org

About Art Fund Museum of the Year

Art Fund Museum of the Year is awarded each year to a truly visionary organisation – one that readily rethinks established ways of working, and offers great quality and ingenuity in all its activities. Art Fund has supported Museum of the Year since 2008. Its forerunner was the Prize for Museums and Galleries, administered by the Museum Prize Trust and sponsored by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation from 2003-2007. The prize champions what museums do, encourages more people to visit and gets to the heart of what makes a truly outstanding public facility. The judges present the prize to the museum or gallery that has shown how their achievements of the preceding year stand out, demonstrated what makes their work innovative, and the impact it has had on audiences. These achievements might include:

- Bold and imaginative exhibitions, collection displays or collection conservation projects
- Learning programmes that have developed the skills, knowledge and enjoyment of children, young people and adults in new ways
- Exceptional acquisitions that have had a real impact on the museum and its audiences
- Audience engagement, diversity or access initiatives that have greatly broadened participation, and creative use of technology or digital media
- Substantial programmes of modernisation, reorganisation or reinterpretation that have had a transformative impact
- New building, refurbishments or reinventions of existing spaces that have had a strong impact on the museum and its audiences

Winners over the past seven years were: the Hepworth Wakefield (2017); V&A (2016); the Whitworth (2015); Yorkshire Sculpture Park (2014); William Morris Gallery (2013); Royal Albert Memorial Museum (2012); and the British Museum (2011).