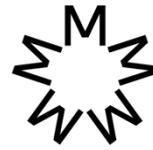


THE
HEPWORTH
WAKEFIELD



Art Fund
Museum of
the Year 2017
Winner

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD ANNOUNCES
PLANS FOR ART FUND MUSEUM OF THE YEAR 2017 PRIZE MONEY

Today The Hepworth Wakefield announces that it will use its £100,000 Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017 prize money to acquire a significant contemporary sculpture for Wakefield's art collection and contribute to the transformation of the wider site immediately around the museum.

Half of the prize money will go towards acquiring a new sculpture by leading contemporary artist Helen Marten, who has an important place in the gallery's history after winning the inaugural Hepworth Prize for Sculpture in 2016. Marten went on to win The Turner Prize in the same year. The success of the Hepworth Prize was an integral part of the Art Fund judges' decision to award The Hepworth Wakefield Museum of the Year. A new work by Marten will be acquired for the Wakefield Permanent Art Collection – an impressive compendium of modern and contemporary British art – continuing the legacy established by Wakefield in 1923 of collecting works of art by contemporary British artists to document the development of contemporary art practice.

The remainder of the money will contribute towards The Hepworth Wakefield's ambitious plans to transform a strip of uninspiring land adjacent to the gallery into a beautiful garden by leading designer, Tom Stuart-Smith. Once complete, it will be one of the largest free public gardens in the UK, creating a major new visitor attraction for Wakefield and providing vital green space in the heart of the city for local residents to enjoy.

Simon Wallis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield, said: 'Careful consideration has gone into deciding how we spend the hard-won Art Fund Museum of the Year 2017 prize money as we wanted to ensure it was spent for the long-term benefit of Wakefield and our local communities. By dividing it between strategically growing our collection and investing in our capital plans to further animate our wider site we have struck the ideal balance.'

The Hepworth Wakefield was awarded the prestigious title in 2017 for their year of inspiring exhibitions, a large increase in visitors and the creation of The Hepworth Prize for Sculpture.

ENDS

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High-resolution images with captions and credits from the Media Centre:
www.hepworthwakefield.org/press

ABOUT THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The Hepworth Wakefield is an award-winning art gallery in the heart of Yorkshire, set within Wakefield's historic waterfront, overlooking the River Calder. Designed by the acclaimed David Chipperfield Architects, the gallery opened in May 2011 and has already welcomed two million visitors. The gallery was awarded Art Fund Museum of the Year in July 2017. Named after Barbara Hepworth, one of the most important artists of the 20th century, who was born and brought up in Wakefield, the gallery presents major exhibitions of the best international modern and contemporary art. It also is home to Wakefield's art collection – an impressive compendium of modern British and contemporary art – and has dedicated galleries exploring Hepworth's art and working process.

The Hepworth Wakefield is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England.