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Art Fund Prize judging panel announced for 2012

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Lord Smith of Finsbury will chair a panel of seven high profile judges to pick the winner of The Art Fund Prize for museums and galleries 2012, in the tenth year of awarding the UK's largest single arts prize.

The Art Fund Prize is the most prestigious prize in the museum world and annually awards £100,000 to a museum or gallery that demonstrates excellence, originality and imagination for a project the previous year.

Lord Smith's fellow judges come from the worlds of media, arts, culture, science and academia:

- **Lord Smith of Finsbury**, Chair, former Labour MP and Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
- **Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE**, theoretical physicist, author and broadcaster
- **Charlotte Higgins**, Guardian journalist and author
- **Lucy Worsley**, Chief Curator at Historic Royal Palaces, author and broadcaster
- **Sir Mark Jones**, Master at St Cross College, Oxford and former V&A director
- **Rick Mather**, architect
- **Lisa Milroy**, artist and Head of Graduate Painting at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL

The submission period opened in October 2011, and closes on December 1. A long list will be announced in February 2012. The judges will then visit all long listed institutions before

deciding on a short list, to be announced in May 2012. The final winner will be revealed at the Prize ceremony on 19 June.

Stephen Deuchar, Director of the Art Fund, said: "The Art Fund Prize is not just about excellence; it's about creativity and originality too. It has been a particularly strong year for museums and galleries in all these respects and we look forward to the opportunity of showcasing their extraordinary work over the past year."

Penelope, Lady Cobham, Chairman of the Museum Prize Trust said: 'The Judges generously bring their time and expertise to the Art Fund Prize. The Museum Prize Trust is delighted to have such a prestigious panel in the tenth year of the Prize, with Judges from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds.'

Chair of the Art Fund Prize, Lord Smith of Finsbury comments: 'I am delighted to have been asked to be the Chair of the Art Fund Prize for the tenth year of the award. Museums and galleries have come a long way in the last decade and with the jury I look forward to the challenge of selecting venues that have recently made a truly important contribution to the cultural life of the UK.'

-- Ends

Notes to editors:

The Art Fund Prize

The Art Fund Prize is administered by The Museum Prize, a charitable company created in 2001 by representatives of National Heritage, the Museums Association, the Art Fund and the Campaign for Museums. These organisations agreed to put aside award schemes they formerly ran (including National Heritage's Museum of the Year) and lend their support to this single major prize. The Art Fund has sponsored the Prize since 2007, taking over from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation which administered the Prize for its first five years. For more information visit www.artfundprize.org.uk

The Clore Award

The Clore Award for Museum Learning is an award that sits under the umbrella of the Art Fund Prize. This is the second year for the award of £10,000, which recognises and celebrates quality, impact and innovation in using museums and galleries for learning activities or initiatives. The Clore Award 2012 has a focus on work with children and young people. The award is funded by the Clore Duffield Foundation and a separate jury are responsible for the decision. For more information, visit www.artfundprize.org.uk.

The Judges

- **Lord Smith of Finsbury** sits on the cross benches as an Independent Peer. As a former director of the Clore Leadership Programme he played an instrumental role in developing the scheme, which nurtures the future leaders of the cultural sector. He is Chairman of the Environment Agency, Chair of the Advertising Standards Authority, a visiting professor at the University of the Arts, London, and an honorary Fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge.
- **Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE** is a scientist, author and broadcaster. He is a leading academic nuclear physicist based at the University of Surrey where he holds a personal chair in physics and the first University of Surrey chair in the Public Engagement in Science; he is also vice president and trustee of the British Science Association. He has written a number of popular science books, translated into 13 languages.
- **Charlotte Higgins** is the chief arts writer for the Guardian newspaper, producing news, features, op-ed pieces, literary reviews and essays. Her blog on culture is at guardian.co.uk/charlottehiggins. A classicist by education, Charlotte is the author of two books on aspects of the ancient world: *Latin Love Lessons* and *It's All Greek To Me*, and is working on a book about Roman Britain, to be published by Jonathan Cape. She was awarded the 2010 Classical Association prize.
- **Lucy Worsley** is Chief Curator at Historic Royal Palaces, the independent charity which opens the five unoccupied royal palaces of London (including the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace) to 3.2 million visitors annually. She has also written three books of popular history, 'Cavalier', 'Courtiers' and 'If Walls Could Talk' (all published by Faber and Faber) and is a BBC TV presenter on history topics.
- **Sir Mark Jones** was director of the V&A Museum from 2001 to 2011 and previously director of the National Museums of Scotland. He is the current Master of Saint Cross College, Oxford, a trustee of the National Trust, the Gilbert Collection, and the Pilgrim Trust, a member of the Court and Council of the
- Royal College of Art, Vice President of the British Art Medal Society and the Kensington & Chelsea Decorative & Fine Arts Society, and a patron of the Embroiderers' Guild and the Heritage Crafts Association.
- **Rick Mather** founded Rick Mather Architects in 1973 and sets the design direction of the practice as a whole as well as designing and reviewing all projects on a regular basis. A native of Oregon, Rick came to the UK to study urban design at the Architectural Association. His work has since been published and exhibited around the world including the acclaimed South Bank Masterplan. He has served on councils of the RIBA and the Architectural Association and is a former Trustee of the Victoria and Albert Museum. He was awarded the Ellis F Lawrence Medal, the highest award for an alumnus of the University of Oregon.
- **Lisa Milroy** was born in Vancouver, Canada and graduated from Goldsmiths College in 1982. Milroy exhibits her paintings widely in the UK and abroad, and her work is held in many public and private collections, including the British Council, Arts Council England and Tate. She won the John Moore's Painting Prize in 1989 and a major survey of her work was held at Tate Liverpool in 2001. Milroy was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts in 2006 and has been Head of Graduate Painting at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL since 2009.