

compete with the best. Exeter has a long and rich history which is well recorded in RAMM. It's great that today it's the museum that is making history."

The Art Fund Prize was decided by an independent panel of judges chaired by **Lord Smith of Finsbury**, former Labour MP and Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. The judging panel includes **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; and **Lisa Milroy**, artist and Head of Graduate Painting at the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL.

The Art Fund Prize is the annual celebration of the very best UK museums and galleries. The purpose of the £100,000 award is to recognise and stimulate originality and excellence in museums and galleries, and to increase public appreciation and enjoyment of all they have to offer.

Stephen Deuchar, Director of the Art Fund said: "*The Royal Albert Memorial Museum is a wonderful winner from an exceptional shortlist. Curators and designers have joined forces to display and interpret a huge and eclectic collection with great clarity, creativity and wit. The end result is a masterpiece of museum presentation.*"

Penelope, Viscountess Cobham, Chair of The Museum Prize Trust said: "*The redevelopment of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum has been a truly wonderful success, and is a most deserving winner of the tenth annual Prize for Museums. It is a shining example of the innovation and imagination that makes our museum sector so special. Congratulations to all involved in this most inspiring enterprise.*"

The winner has been announced live on BBC Radio 4 Front Row and at an event at The British Museum on 19 June 2012.

-- Ends

Notes to editors:

The Art Fund Prize 2012 rewards excellence and innovation in museums and galleries in the UK for a project completed or undertaken in 2011. The annual prize has been awarded since 2003.

The ten longlisted museums are:

- **Bletchley Park**, Milton Keynes, Bucks.: *The Life and Works of Alan Turing*
- **M Shed**, Bristol: *A New Museum for Bristol*
- **National Museum of Scotland**, Edinburgh: *National Museum of Scotland Development*
- **Riverside Museum, Scotland's Museum of Transport and Travel**, Glasgow: *Riverside Museum Project*
- **Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery**, Exeter, Devon: *RAMM Development Project*
- **The Hepworth Wakefield**, Wakefield, West Yorkshire: *The Hepworth Wakefield*
- **The Holburne Museum**, Bath, Somerset: *The Holburne Museum Development Project*
- **The National Galleries of Scotland**, Edinburgh: *Portrait of the Nation*
- **Turner Contemporary**, Margate, Kent: *Turner Contemporary*
- **Watts Gallery**, Guildford, Surrey: *The Watts Gallery Hope Project*

Clare Award for Museum Learning

Organised under the umbrella of the Art Fund Prize, the winner of the Clare Award for Museum Learning was also announced tonight. Supported by the Clare Duffield Foundation, the £10,000 award champions quality museum and gallery learning with children and young people in or out of school. The award is judged by a separate panel co-chaired by Dame Vivien Duffield DBE, Chairman of the Clare Duffield Foundation and Sally Bacon, Executive Director.

The winning museum learning initiatives, each awarded £10,000, are **Leicestershire County Council Heritage and Arts Service**, for their *Held in the Hand* and *Touch Tables* programmes, and the **Whitworth Art Gallery** for the Manchester Early Years Partnership

More information on the Clare Award for Museum Learning can be found at

www.artfundprize.org.uk/clare-award

Ten Years of the Museum Prize

2012 is the tenth year of the Art Fund Prize for Museums (formerly the Gulbenkian Prize).

The past winners are:

- **2011** The British Museum, for A History of the World
- **2010** The Ulster Museum, Belfast
- **2009** Wedgwood Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
- **2008** The Lightbox gallery and museum, Woking
- **2007** Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, East Sussex
- **2006** Brunel's SS Great Britain, Bristol
- **2005** Big Pit: the National Mining Museum of Wales
- **2004** Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh
- **2003** National Centre for Citizenship and the Law, Galleries of Justice, Nottingham

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 and chaired by Lady Cobham. 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 is the national charity which helps museums and galleries to buy, show and share art for the enjoyment of all. Over the past five years, the Art Fund has given over £24 million towards art of all kinds, from Old Masters to new media, and supported a range of programmes which share and show art to wider audiences, including the national tour of ARTIST ROOMS, the Art Fund Prize for Museums and Galleries, and Art Guide, a pioneering smartphone app offering the most comprehensive guide to seeing art in the UK. The Art Fund is independently funded and the majority of its income comes from 90,000 supporters who purchase a National Art Pass, costing from £50, which gives free entry to over 200 museums, galleries and historic houses across the country as well as 50% off many major exhibitions.

Find out more about the Art Fund and the National Art Pass at www.artfund.org.uk. The press office can be reached on 020 7225 4888 or media@artfund.org

The Clore Duffield Foundation is chaired by Dame Vivien Duffield DBE and has a strong focus on supporting cultural learning, particularly within museums and galleries and at heritage sites. www.cloreduffield.org.uk. It is one of the founding partners of the Cultural Learning Alliance, a collective voice working to ensure that all children and young people have meaningful access to culture in this difficult economic climate. www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk

ArtFund Prize 2012

for museums and galleries