



Horniman Museum and Gardens shortlisted for £100,000 Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022

The Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill, south London, has been selected as one of the five finalists for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022, the world's largest museum prize.

Art Fund annually shortlists five outstanding museums for the Museum of the Year prize. The 2022 edition champions organisations whose achievements tell the story of museums' creativity and resilience, and particularly focuses on those engaging the next generation of audiences in innovative ways.

Nick Merriman, Chief Executive and Content Director of the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'We are delighted to be shortlisted for this prestigious award. 2021 was a year of determination and effort – guided by our [Reset Agenda](#) – to put our local community at the heart of what we do, and to focus our work around the issues that matter most – social justice, climate and ecology and building a better future together. We're incredibly grateful for the support of all of our partners, artists and contributors, staff and volunteers, and to everyone who visited and joined in to make the Horniman such a joyful place to be in 2021.'

2021 highlights at the Horniman:

- the 696 Programme, a celebration of the music of South London – from Afrofuturist hip-hop to reggae, jazz and soul. Showcasing Black British creativity and placing it at the Horniman's heart, the sold-out live music festival attracted 8,000 visitors and nearly 20,000 visited the Dance Can't Nice exhibition.
- fulfilling the pledges of the Climate and Ecology Manifesto, from an online club of Environment Champions to embedding more sustainable gardening practices to the creation of a micro-forest to help combat air pollution along the South Circular road
- inspiring the next generation, from a takeover of the galleries by children to the Horniman's youth panel of 14-19 year olds, and providing curriculum-linked school workshops, work experience opportunities and Kickstart apprenticeships

- collaborating with other museums – the Horniman is spearheading the MAGNET group of organisations sharing collections-based touring exhibitions, starting with Hair: Untold Stories at the Horniman.

The other four shortlisted museums for Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022 are Derby Museums, Museum of Making (Derby); People’s History Museum (Manchester); The Story Museum (Oxford); and Tŷ Pawb (Wrexham).

The members of this year’s judging panel, chaired by Art Fund Director Jenny Waldman, are: Dame Diane Lees, Director-General, Imperial War Museums; Harold Offeh, artist and educator; Dr Janina Ramirez, cultural historian and broadcaster and Huw Stephens, BBC Radio 6 Music DJ and broadcaster. The judges will visit each of the finalists to help inform their decision-making, while each museum will make the most of being shortlisted over the summer through events and activities for both new and current visitors.

The winning museum will be announced at a ceremony at the Design Museum on 14 July and will receive £100,000. The other four shortlisted museums will each receive £15,000 in recognition of their achievements. #museumoftheyear

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Picture shows: Horniman Museum and Gardens

Notes to Editors:

THE 2022 JUDGING PANEL:

Jenny Waldman (Chair)

Formerly Director of 14-18 NOW, the UK’s official arts programme for the First World War Centenary, Jenny joined Art Fund as Director in May 2020. At 14-18 NOW she oversaw a programme of commissions of over 100 new works from leading UK and international contemporary artists including Jeremy Deller, Peter Jackson, John Akomfrah, William Kentridge, Susan Philipsz, Yinka Shonibare CBE and Rachel Whiteread. Prior to this she was Creative Producer of the London 2012 Festival and Public Programmes Consultant to Somerset House Trust. Jenny is Chair of Trustees of Artangel and a member of the Barbican Centre Board. She was awarded a CBE in the 2017 New Year Honours for services to the arts.

Dame Diane Lees

Since October 2008, Diane Lees has served as Director-General of the Imperial War Museums. She has worked on some of the most challenging and exciting projects in the country, including recovery and display of the Mary Rose flagship in Portsmouth Harbour and the redisplay of the Nelson

Galleries at the Royal Naval Museum. She project-managed the creation of the UK standard for the recording of information about museum collections (SPECTRUM) and was responsible for the creation of the only museum of law in the country, the multi-award-winning Galleries of Justice in Nottingham. She is the Vice-President of the American Air Museum in Britain and The Gerry Holdsworth Special Forces Trust. Lees was awarded a CBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list in January 2015 and a DBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list in January 2022 for services to museums.

Harold Offeh

Harold Offeh is an artist working across performance, video, photography, learning and social arts practice. He is interested in the space created by the inhabiting or embodying of histories. He employs humour as a means to confront the viewer with historical narratives and contemporary culture. Offeh has exhibited widely including at Tate Britain and Tate Modern, South London Gallery, Wellcome Collection, Kettle's Yard, Wysing Art Centre, Studio Museum Harlem, MAC VAL, France, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Denmark and Art Tower Mito, Japan. Recent commissions include a new video work exploring the redemptive power of joy through social dance for On Happiness at the Wellcome Collection, and a children's play area for Bluecoat Contemporary Art Centre, Liverpool. Offeh lives and works in Cambridge and London. He is a Tutor in Contemporary Art Practice at the Royal College of Art, London. In 2019, he was a recipient of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists, the largest award of its kind in the UK.

Dr. Janina Ramirez

Dr Janina Ramirez is a presenter, lecturer and researcher. She specialises in interpreting symbols, and examining art works within their historical context. Following a degree in English Language and Literature at St Anne's College, Oxford, Nina went to the prestigious Centre for Medieval Studies in York. Here she completed an MA and PhD on birds in Anglo-Saxon art and literature. She has published widely on medieval art and literature, and has taught and researched across a broad chronological sweep, covering everything from the sculptures of antiquity to post-modern architecture. Her experience also stretches beyond the world of art, having lectured in archaeology, history, literature and language. She has worked on a number of documentaries for BBC4. These have included 'Saints & Sinners: Britain's Millennium of Monasteries', 'Illuminations: The Private Lives of Medieval Kings' and 'Chivalry & Betrayal: The Hundred Years War'. She is a passionate and enthused academic driven by a desire to share ideas

Huw Stephens, BBC Radio 6 Music DJ and broadcaster

Huw Stephens is a presenter, DJ and host. He joined BBC Radio 1 at 17, becoming the youngest ever Radio 1 DJ. He has broadcast live from Glastonbury, Reading Festival, Sonar, South by South West, Eurosonic on BBC Radio 1, as well as live from Radio 1's own Teen Awards and Big Weekend. His passion for new music has meant he has been the first to champion countless new artists early on. He has contributed to BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 6 Music and presented on BBC Radio Wales, and presents regularly on the BBC World Service. Huw is the founder of the Swn Festival in Cardiff, Wales' premier new music festival. He curates the Lake Stage at Latitude Festival, comperes the main stage at Reading Festival, and has dj'd and curated at Green Man Festival, Festival no 6, Bestival, T in the Park and Glastonbury. Huw presents a weekly show on BBC Radio Cymru playing new artists from Wales and the world. He champions new music and dj's at the Eisteddfod, the National Festival of Wales. He founded two record labels; Boobytrap and Am Records, and has released two compilations on Wichita Recordings named Music Sounds Better With Huw.

Art Fund Museum of the Year

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 museum. 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.

Winners 2008 - 2021:

2008 - The Lightbox, Woking
2009 - Wedgwood Museum, Stoke-on-Trent
2010 - Ulster Museum, Belfast
2011 - British Museum
2012 - Royal Albert Memorial Museum
2013 - William Morris Gallery, London
2014 - Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield
2015 - Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester
2016 - Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), London
2017 - The Hepworth, Wakefield
2018 - Tate St Ives
2019 - St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff
2020 - Aberdeen Art Gallery; Gairloch Museum; Science Museum; South London Gallery; and Towner Eastbourne.
2021 – Firstsite, Colchester

About Art Fund: Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. It provides millions of pounds every year to help museums to acquire and share works of art across the UK, further the professional development of their curators, and inspire more people to visit and enjoy their public programmes. In response to Covid-19 Art Fund made £3.6 million in urgent funding available to support museums through reopening and beyond, including Respond and Reimagine grants to help meet immediate need and reimagine future ways of working. A further £2 million has been made available in 2021 for Reimagine projects. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by Art Partners, donors, trusts and foundations and the 130,000 members who buy the National Art Pass, who enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places, 50% off major exhibitions, and receive Art Quarterly magazine. Art Fund also supports museums through its annual prize, Art Fund Museum of the Year. The winner of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021 is Firstsite in Colchester. www.artfund.org

The Horniman Museum and Gardens opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium, alongside a World Gallery of anthropology and a flexible arts and exhibition space, The Studio. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk

Coronavirus impact: Every month the Horniman was closed cost around £150,000 in lost income from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and café. In recent years, the Horniman has increasingly relied on this vital income to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of returning visitors, our supporters and their generous donations are more needed than ever. horniman.ac.uk/support-us/

The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.

On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration – and the subsequent **Climate and Ecological Manifesto**, published in January 2020 – is a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's manifesto commitments and progress so far at horniman.ac.uk/climate.