

7 March 2008

Culture Minister Andy Burnham Visits mima

mima Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art welcomed the Government's Culture Minister, Andy Burnham MP to the gallery yesterday.

Visiting for the first time, the Minister was welcomed by Ashok Kumar MP; Councilor. David Budd, Middlesbrough's Executive Member for Regeneration and Culture; Tim White, Director of Regeneration at Middlesbrough Council; and Godfrey Worsdale, Director of mima.

While at the gallery, the Minister was treated to a tour of the building, including a walk round the gallery spaces and current exhibitions.

The visit follows Mr Kumar's invitation to the Minister to visit the gallery.

Godfrey Worsdale, Director of mima said: "I was delighted that Andy Burnham took this opportunity to visit both mima and Middlesbrough. Having just celebrated our first birthday and a fantastic opening year, his visit came at an extremely positive time in mima's life."

He continued: 'It's a very timely visit to mima, as thanks to the recent Grant settlement that the Arts Council has received from the Department for Culture, Media & Sport, we have been awarded a significant increase in our funding from the Arts Council for the next three years. This is a real vote of confidence in what mima has achieved to date.

ENDS

Notes to editors

mima is a new gallery of modern and contemporary art which opened on 27 January 2007, designed by Erick van Egeraat Associated Architects. The gallery brings together Middlesbrough's art collections for the first time and hosts temporary exhibitions of fine art and craft from 1900 to the present. Featuring the work of internationally acclaimed artists, the programme includes painting, drawing, ceramics, jewellery, design, sound, film, mixed media, photography and sculpture. Exhibitions change every quarter. www.visitmima.com

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