

**News
Release**

Media information from Middlesbrough Council

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IT'S ONE MILLION POUND mima

mima (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art) has won a £1 million boost for its collection.

The Art Fund, the UK's leading independent art charity today announced that mima in partnership with The Drawing Center, New York, has been awarded £1 million. The money will fund the creation of a collection of international contemporary art through the charity's new scheme, Art Fund International.

The Art Fund has launched the initiative to encourage a radical change in the scale and ambition of contemporary art collecting in the UK. mima and The Drawing Center, New York were one of five partnerships that each won £1 million.

mima's aim is to build an important collection of drawings made by artists living and working in North and South America. The ultimate goal is to secure outstanding works by the artists who are, and who will become, internationally significant.

Godfrey Worsdale, Director of mima, said: "This is a tremendous endorsement of a very young gallery's ambition to make a valuable contribution to the UK art scene. Being involved in this initiative will enable mima to collect contemporary art at a level that could not have been imagined when the gallery launched just ten months ago.

"The Art Fund International programme will enable collections across the country to substantially raise the bar in terms of the works they acquire and these works will benefit gallery goers in Middlesbrough, Tees Valley and the rest of the country in perpetuity."

Councillor David Budd, Middlesbrough's executive member for regeneration, added: " This is marvellous news for Middlesbrough and mima. It reflects great credit on our dedicated team at the gallery who are doing a terrific job in making mima a national and international symbol of excellence. Once again, mima is showing that Middlesbrough is competing and winning."

David Barrie, Director of The Art Fund, said: "We were stunned by the amazing response to the initiative, particularly by the enthusiasm and ideas generated by the museums working in partnership with contemporary art organisations.

"The vision and ability of the five winners was particularly impressive - now comes the exciting task of acquiring and commissioning work to make their ideas a reality. These are the spaces to watch as we begin to realise the enormous ambition of developing international contemporary art collections around the country."

The Art Fund International application process required museums to form partnerships with contemporary art organisations for the first time. These partnerships worked together to bid for funds to buy works of art outright in line with a specified collecting theme. A total of 29 applications were received from all over the UK, involving nearly 90 organisations. Ten of these were selected to make full proposals, from which five winners were chosen. The £1million will be allocated to specific purchases and commissions over the next five years.

The winning partnerships were: Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives in partnership with Arnolfini Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow in partnership with The Common Guild; Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (mima) in partnership with The Drawing Center, New York; Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne in partnership with Photoworks, Brighton Photo Biennial and Artsway; West Midlands partnership: Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and New Art Gallery Walsall in partnership with Ikon.

The Art Fund is the UK's leading independent art charity. It offers grants to help UK museums and galleries enrich their collections and campaigns widely on behalf of museums and their visitors. It is entirely funded from public donations and has 80,000 members. Since 1903 the charity has helped museums and galleries all over the UK secure 860,000 works of art for their collections.

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Press Notice

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