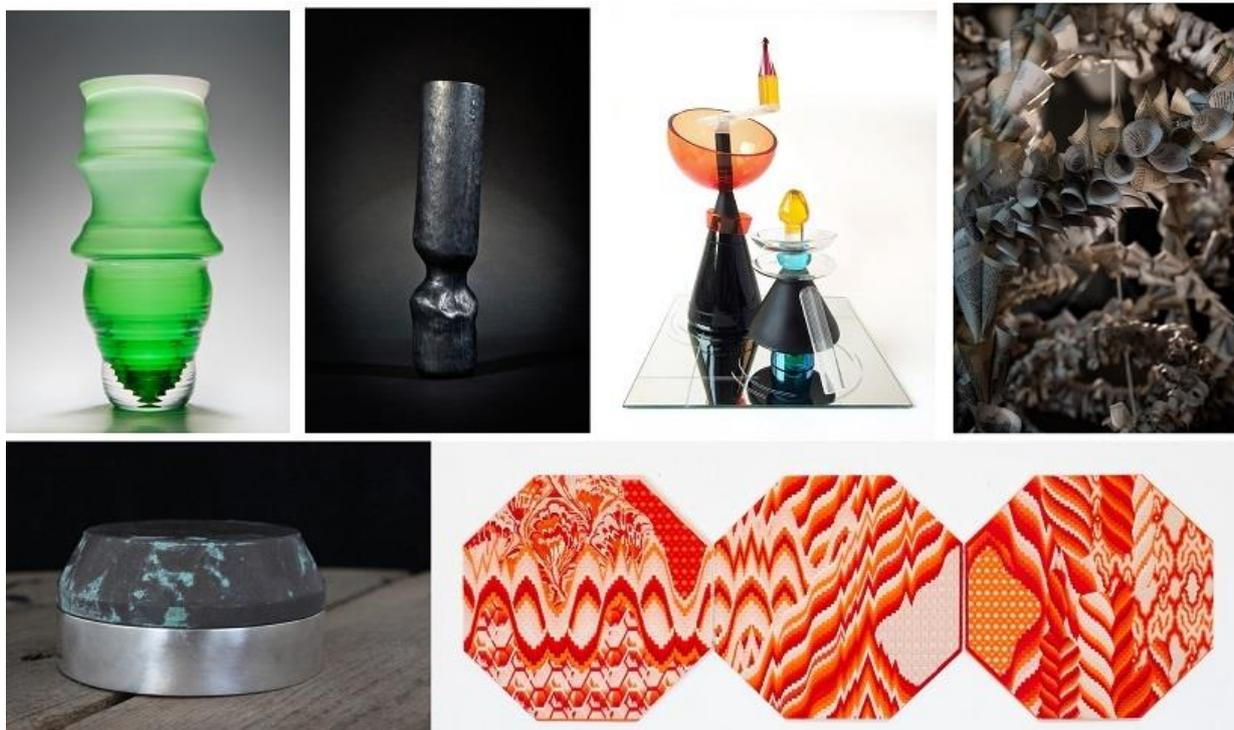


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Artists Announced for Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open 2021

Anna Berry | Cecilia Charlton | Jahday Ford | Vicky Higginson | Francisca Onumah and Helena Russell



The Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open 2021 awardees are announced as **Anna Berry, Cecilia Charlton, Jahday Ford, Vicky Higginson** and **Francisca Onumah and Helena Russell**. These outstanding early-career artists and makers will create five new commissions for display at Jerwood Space in London before going on a national tour throughout 2022-2023, travelling from Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange in Cornwall to Aberdeen Art Gallery in the North East of Scotland.

The artists were selected from over 500 applications by an independent panel comprising: **Yinka Ilori**, artist and designer; **Junko Mori**, artist maker in metal; **Dame Magdalene Odundo**, potter; **Christine Rew**, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums Manager; and **Harriet Cooper**, Head of Visual Arts at Jerwood Arts.

The award, now in its eighth edition, recognises and promotes the significance of making practice and process within contemporary visual arts. It gives exceptional artists and makers the opportunity to develop their creative ideas independently, enabling them to experiment, learn and take risks at a pivotal moment in their careers. In recognition of the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, for this edition the awardees receive an increased award of £10,000 each plus curatorial and production support from the Jerwood Arts team to enable the making of new work over an extended twelve-month period.

Showcasing a broad range of material disciplines, including glass, textiles, digital modelling, silversmithing and sculptural installation, the five 2021 commissions provide a snapshot of some of the most exciting new work being produced by UK-based artists and makers.

- **Anna Berry**'s practice stretches across a variety of mediums, including immersive, site-specific and kinetic installations. She is based in Milton Keynes. With the award she will be experimenting with materials and techniques she has not yet explored to develop a new sculptural installation focused on organic, minimal, repetitive craft-based processes.
annaberry.co.uk
- **Cecilia Charlton** is a London-based American artist who has worked across a number of disciplines before arriving at her current focus – textiles and embroidery. For Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open she is creating a triptych of human-sized embroideries which will reference the three Fates from Greek mythology and contemplate our current global situation using the metaphor of thread for life/time. ceciliacharlton.com
- **Jahday Ford**'s work combines traditional material application with technologically advanced production, such as digital modelling and mould making. Jahday is currently based in Manchester. His commission will extend his current digital-glass investigations using computerised sculpting and mould shaping to create a collection of illuminated glass vessels that feature interactive lighting phenomena using LED sensors. jahdayfordglass.co.uk
- Based in Edinburgh, **Vicky Higginson**'s practice combines hot glass and cold-working, with glass forms handblown and worked into using cutting, carving and engraving techniques to create vessels and sculptural forms. Her new work will look at the meeting point of folklore and fairy tales with science fiction through crafted objects with an imagined purpose. Constructed from mirrored and neon-lit glass, carved and decorated with personal motifs, and

assembled with vernacular materials, these are 'folk-futurist' devices to heal the mind.
vickyhigginson.com

- Working in collaboration, **Francisca Onumah** and **Helena Russell** are silversmiths based in Yorkshire Artspace, famous for its silversmithing tradition and rich industrial heritage. For Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open they are developing a new collaborative installation of tableware pieces made using traditional silversmithing tools that they have restored. Their research includes documenting stories of 'Little Mesters' and capturing the living histories of a once-thriving silverware industry in Sheffield, to inform their practice today.
franciscaonumah.co.uk helenarussell.co.uk

Harriet Cooper, Head of Visual Arts at Jerwood Arts says:

"I am hugely excited to announce the five 2021 awardees and look forward to working with them on their thought-provoking commissions over the coming year. Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open creates a vital space for artists and makers to experiment, learn and take risks with their work and throughout the selection process it was clear that all of these artists hold this spirit at the heart of their practice. The awardees commitment to exploring the possibility of materials and the bounds of imagination remind us of the importance of making and skill within the visual arts."

Dame Magdalene Odundo adds:

"Congratulations to the recipients of the Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open 2021. The task for us judges of selecting five recipients from 500 applications was not an easy one, the standard of the applications was astonishingly high. I look forward to seeing the works that emerge from each studio in the forthcoming touring exhibition."

Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open 2021 is a collaboration between Jerwood Arts and Art Fund in partnership with Aberdeen Art Gallery. The prestigious biennial artist development, commissioning and national touring award champions artists and makers across the UK at a pivotal point in their practice, encouraging critical debate, visibility and dialogue around contemporary craft and applied arts within UK public collections. It is committed to strengthening the profile and importance of making, craft and applied arts presented within a visual arts context. The exhibition will tour to Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange in Cornwall in summer 2022 before travelling to Aberdeen Art Gallery in the North East of Scotland in autumn 2022.

Previous recipients of the award have included: ceramic artist **Adam Buick** whose work has been acquired by prestigious collections including the British Museum, Crafts Council and Chatsworth House; artist **Jasleen Kaur** whose recent commissions include Wellcome Collection, England's Creative Coast, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, and Glasgow Women's Library; artist and sculptor **Zachary Eastwood-Bloom** who was 2019 Digital Artist in Residence with Scottish Ballet, Glasgow; ceramic artist **Tana West** who won the Feldspar award at the Whitegold

International Ceramic Prize 2019; and collaborative artists **Forest + Found** who have exhibited at New Art Centre, Roche Court, and Make | Hauser & Wirth Somerset alongside receiving scholarships in painting and woodturning from the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust.

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Image credits (clockwise from top left)

Jahday Ford, *Breathe*, 2018. Digital wood mould and blown glass. Image Credit: Ester Segarra. Courtesy of the artist

Francisca Onumah, *Pinch*, 2018. Hand raised, Oxidised Copper vessel. Image credit: Jerry Lampson. Courtesy of the artist

Vicky Higginson, *Artefact VII. Mind Reader*, 2019. Hand blown and hot-sculpted glass. Cut, carved, cold-worked and assembled. Engraved mirror. Courtesy of the artist

Anna Berry, *The Constantly Moving Happiness Machine*, Milton Keynes, 2018. Interactive Kinetic Installation, neoliberal texts, carbon fibre, plastic, steel, chain and gears, wood. Courtesy of the artist

Cecilia Charlton, *Fire Matter (Earth series)*, 2019. Hand-embroidered wool on canvas over panel. Courtesy of the artist

Helena Russell, *Dissimilar container*, 2019. Sterling silver container with patina finish. Image credit: Tyler Mellins. Courtesy of the artist

For further information about Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open please contact Four Culture:

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Press images can be found [here](#).

Anna Berry is a self-taught artist from Scotland, living in Milton Keynes. Her work is usually shown in non-gallery environments. She has a background in philosophy and commercial photography, both of which inform her practise. Anna is most known for her large, often kinetic, interactive installations in public space. These tend to involve a long and painstaking process of crafting from ephemeral materials for a non-archival outcome. She received an Unlimited Commission for her large kinetic installation Breathing Room, which will tour in 2021, and was DASH curator-in-residence at MAC Birmingham 2019/2020.

Cecilia Charlton is a London-based American artist. She received a BFA Painting in 2015 from Hunter College in NYC, graduating summa cum laude, and an MA Painting from the Royal College of Art in 2018. She is currently working on a Vital Arts commission for Newham hospital and will create an installation as part of Contemporary Collaborations with Robert Young Antiques in June 2021. Cecilia has exhibited in the UK and internationally; her recent exhibitions include: Aurora, Candida Stevens Gallery, 2020 (solo); Parade, curated

by Kris Day, Broadway Gallery, UK, 2019; Tender Touches, curated by Ines Neto dos Santos and Huma Kabakci of Open Space Contemporary, AMP Gallery, London, 2019; and Grid: Preset, Blyth Gallery, London, 2019.

Jahday Ford is a Glass Artist and Designer from Bermuda, currently based in Manchester, UK. He is a graduate from Manchester School of Art where he received his BA Degree in Three Dimensional Design, specialising in hot glass fabrication and mould design. Using a combination of glass blowing and digitally programmed forms, Ford explores ways of drastically changing the materiality of his objects, effectively bonding these two diverse processes. He's participated in a variety of exhibitions in the UK and internationally and in 2020 took part in the HOME Manchester Future 20 Collective Artist Residency & Exhibition. His award-winning projects 'Breathe' and 'Deconstruct' have been exhibited in galleries including Corning Museum of Glass, New Designers, London Design Junction, Manchester Craft & Design Centre and The National Centre for Craft & Design in Lincolnshire.

Vicky Higginson is an Edinburgh-based artist working mainly with hand blown and cold-worked glass. Since graduating with a Masters in Glass from the University of Sunderland in 2011 she has exhibited work nationally, notably at the British Glass Biennale in 2012 and 2019, and Collect in 2019; and internationally in Ireland, Japan, the Czech Republic and the US. Residencies at Edinburgh College of Art and North Lands Creative have been pivotal in the development and evolution of Vicky's work, allowing her the freedom to experiment and change approach, developing personal style and themes. She was awarded the Student Award at the 2012 British Glass Biennale, the Creative Scotland Emerging Artist Bursary in 2015, and received a scholarship to a masterclass at Corning Museum of Glass in 2018.

Ghanaian born silversmith **Francisca Onumah** graduated with a MA in Jewellery and Silversmithing from Birmingham School of Jewellery in 2015. She was selected for the two-year Starter Studio Programme for jewellers and silversmiths at Yorkshire Artspace in Sheffield, South Yorkshire (2017-19). The pinnacle of the programme was being awarded the 'Precious Little Gems' commission from the Sheffield Assay Office (SAO), which was exhibited in the Millennium galleries, Museums Sheffield and is now part of the SAO silver collection. An alumni of the Crafts Council's 2020 Hothouse programme, her distinct aesthetic and emerging talent have been recognised and acknowledged with awards such as 'Best in Show' (GNCCF), and invitations for future collaborative projects and exhibitions.

Helena Russell graduated from Sheffield Hallam University with a BA Hons in Jewellery and Metalwork and an MA in Design. Throughout her studies she focused her design development on interaction, exploring the movement of an object with fittings and connections as well as how we hold and use drinking vessels, and how the form of the vessel can encourage different sensory responses and experiences. Helena is currently based in Persistence Works, Yorkshire Artspace, Sheffield in the Starter Studio, a programme for early career Silversmiths and Jewellers, here she has been developing her practice and body of work which she has taken to exhibitions and craft fairs including Goldsmiths Fair and New Designers. In 2016 she received the Contemporary British Silversmiths Design in Silver Award.

Project credit:

Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open 2021 is a collaboration between Jerwood Arts and Art Fund in partnership with Aberdeen Art Gallery

Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open:

Launched in 2010, Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open (formerly Jerwood Makers Open) is a biennial commissioning opportunity that recognises and promotes the significance of making practice and process within contemporary visual arts. It supports exceptional UK-based artist and makers within 1-10 years of beginning their practice to develop their creative ideas independently, enabling them to experiment, learn and take risks with substantial curatorial support.

Jerwood Arts launched this initiative in response to a need for artists and makers to undertake projects outside the specific commercial briefs common in the applied arts sector. The eighth edition launches a major new collaboration with the Art Fund and partnership with Aberdeen Art Gallery, who host a dedicated early-career curatorial role to support the project and curate an exhibition of the new commissions in Aberdeen in autumn 2022. To date, this initiative has invested over £250,000 directly to artists to support 34 new commissions that have been exhibited at 14 venues across the UK. It continues to respond to an ongoing dialogue around the place of materials, skills and processes in contemporary art practice.

Selected artists by year:

2011: Farah Bandoowala, Emmanuel Boos, Heike Brachlow and Keith Harrison

2012: Nao Matsunaga, James Rigler, William Shannon, Louis Thompson and Silvia Weidenbach

2013: Maisie Broadhead, Linda Brothwell, Adam Buick, Nahoko Kojima, Roanna Wells

2014: Hitomi Hosono, Matthew Raw, Revital Cohen and Tuur Van Balen, Shelley James and FleaFollyArchitects

2015: Zachary Eastwood-Bloom, Malene Hartmann Rasmussen, Jasleen Kaur, Ian McIntyre and Silo Studio

2017: Sam Bakewell, Marcin Rusak, Laura Youngson Coll, Juli Bolaños-Durman, Jessica Harrison

2019: Mark Corfield-Moore, Forest + Found, Lucie Gledhill, Bethan Lloyd Worthington, Tana West

Jerwood Arts is the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. We enable transformative opportunities for individuals across art forms, supporting imaginative awards, fellowships, programmes, commissions and collaborations. We present new work and bring people from across the arts together in the galleries at Jerwood Space, London, as well as across the UK.

jerwoodarts.org

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. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by 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. In a unique edition of the prize for 2020, Art Fund responded to the unprecedented challenges that all museums are facing by selecting five winners and increasing the prize money to £200,000. The winners are Aberdeen Art Gallery; Gairloch Museum; Science Museum; South London Gallery; and Towner Eastbourne www.artfund.org

Aberdeen Art Gallery is an exceptional centre for art and music in the heart of the city. Our Recognised Collection of National Significance is particularly strong in the areas of ceramics, costume, glass, jewellery, metalwork and textiles, with an emphasis on Scottish work. Our interest in collecting recent work has

remained true to the intentions of the Gallery's original Victorian benefactors. An active policy of collecting contemporary British craft has resulted in one of the most important public collections of this type in Scotland. Between 2015 and 2019 Aberdeen Art Gallery underwent a landmark transformation, supported by Aberdeen City Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Newlyn Art Gallery and The Exchange. Founded in 1895 by John Passmore Edwards the philanthropist and social reformer, 2020 marked the 125th anniversary of Newlyn Art Gallery. Passmore Edwards was committed to improving people's lives and felt that art had an important role to play. This vision has inspired us to think more ambitiously about our work with communities and how we might involve them more actively in shaping and leading our work. We are particularly interested in how the gallery might embrace its civic role and become relevant and important to more people. Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange is an educational arts charity, an Arts Council England National Portfolio organisation, an Arts Council Collection National Partner, and a Cornwall Council Strategic Arts Client. We present contemporary work in all media by regional, national and international artists across two sites in West Cornwall. In recent years, our programmes have reached beyond the galleries into other settings, including care homes, schools and other public spaces, from beaches to places of worship, in order to realise our commitment to reach the broadest and largest audiences we can. We were thrilled to be named as part of the Jerwood Arts' Development Programme. We will be working with Jerwood Arts to deliver six artists' residencies, collectively known as The Jerwood Newlyn Residency, between 2021 and 2023. newlynartgallery.co.uk

Art Fund_

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