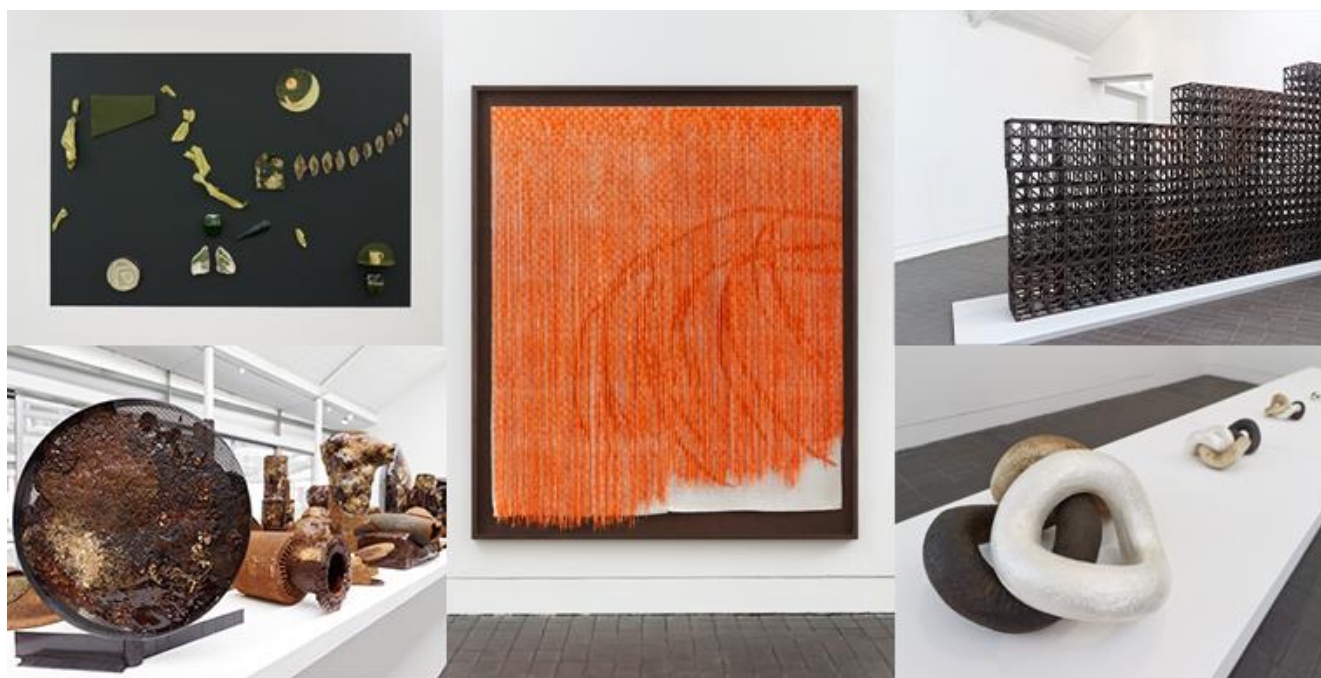


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Selectors Announced and Applications Open for Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open

New national partnerships with Art Fund and Aberdeen Art Gallery support early-career artists and makers to develop bold new work



Thursday 16 July 2020. Jerwood Arts and Art Fund are relaunching the prestigious biennial artist development, commissioning and national touring award as Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open. The award, now in its eighth edition, gives five outstanding early-career UK-based artists and makers the opportunity to develop ambitious new works, to be presented in London at Jerwood Space in June 2021 followed by a three-venue national tour through to 2022 including Aberdeen Art Gallery.

The selectors, announced today, for The Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open 2021 are: Harriet Cooper, Head of Visual Arts at Jerwood Arts; Yinka Ilori, artist and designer; Junko Mori, artist maker in metal; Dame Magdalene Odundo, potter; and Christine Rew, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums Manager. The panel is chaired by Lilli Geissendorfer, Director of Jerwood Arts.

Applications are now open for the award which offers a supported, high profile national platform for artists and makers with between one and ten years of professional practice to take risks with their materials and processes. The five awardees will receive £8,000 each plus curatorial and production support from the Jerwood Arts team to enable the making of new work over a six month period.

The Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open will champion outstanding early-career artists and makers across the UK at a pivotal point in their practice, and encourage 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. For the first time, the Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open will engage with a lead regional museum partner – for this edition, Aberdeen Art Gallery - to create a new curatorial opportunity. The role will work with the team at Jerwood Arts on the curation and development of the award, working closely with the artists and national tour venues, and is based at Aberdeen Art Gallery with regular periods at Jerwood Arts. Aberdeen Art Gallery is a significant public collection with an important collection of craft and applied art, committed to acquiring, commissioning and exhibiting new works that challenge the traditional classifications of fine art and making practice.

Proposals are invited from individuals, collaborations and collectives, for bold new work(s) using all forms of making and material experimentation. Artists working in all materials and progressive practices including but not limited to: ceramics, glass, jewellery, metal, paper, textiles, wood, textiles, and sculpture are invited to apply. Jerwood Arts is keen to see an increase in applications from artists whose background and/or identity is under-represented in the awards and is working with partners to take actions to encourage this. This includes additional access support for people to apply.

Lilli Geissendorfer, Director of Jerwood Arts, said: “The launch of Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open marks a significant milestone in over two decades of support for material and making practices in the visual arts at Jerwood. With our current exhibition of Jerwood Makers Open 2019 set to re-open at Manchester Art Gallery on 20 August, we are delighted to be able to launch the next call for entries at this critical time for artists and the cultural sector. Working closely with our new partners Art Fund and Aberdeen Art Gallery will allow us to strengthen the support available to artists and makers. Together, we will deepen the curatorial expertise, networks and knowledge we know is vital to grow and sustain the next generation and bring their works to audiences across the UK. I would like to thank this year's panellists for sharing the challenge and privilege of selecting five outstanding proposals this autumn. My team and I look forward to supporting artists and makers with bold ideas to apply to us before 26 August.”

Christine Rew, Art Gallery & Museums Manager at Aberdeen City Council, said: “Aberdeen Art Gallery is home to an outstanding collection of contemporary craft. It ranks amongst the finest UK public collections. With the redevelopment of the Gallery, completed in November 2019, for the first time we are able to display many of these treasures to their best advantage, highlighting for our visitors the diverse creative practices of artist makers. Since our beginnings over 130 years ago we have commissioned and acquired works by artists and makers in the early stages of their careers. As we emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic, it is vitally important that we do what we can to support the wealth of emerging talent in the UK. It is a great honour for Aberdeen Art Gallery to be represented on the selection panel of the Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open.”

Jenny Waldman, Director of Art Fund, said: “Artists at an early stage in their careers face a particularly challenging time due to Covid-19 and the lack of work opportunities. Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open will give five UK-based artists and makers an opportunity to create ambitious new work and to have their work exhibited in London, Aberdeen and on tour. It will also give a young curator an opportunity to work with major museums and practicing artists and makers. We hope the Award will encourage museums to present and collect works by artists practicing in crafts and applied arts.”

Image credits

Top left: Bethan Lloyd Worthington, Making all the greens unstable, 2019 (detail). Stoneware with dendritic and earthworm mochaware techniques, marbled slip, oxides, glazes, onglaze painting. Photo: Anna Arca.

Bottom left: Marcin Rusak, Nature of Things, 2017. Originally created for Jerwood Makers Open 2017, supported by Jerwood Arts. Image: Anna Arca

Centre: Mark Corfield-Moore, Celestial Meteors, 2019 (left) and Nitrous Flame, 2019 (right). Dyed Warp, handwoven cotton in oak frame. Photo: Anna Arca

Top right: Zachary Eastwood-Bloom, Partition (2015). Commissioned for Jerwood Makers Open 2015, supported by Jerwood Arts. Image Anna Arca

Bottom right: Lucie Gledhill, Chain, 2019 (detail). Wood, iron and silver. Photo: Anna Arca

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For further information about Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open please contact Truda Spruyt or Holly Unwin at Four Culture:

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

Full application guidance, FAQ and history of the awards can be found [here](#).

Harriet Cooper is Head of Visual Arts at Jerwood Arts where she is responsible for developing and leading their visual arts work including projects, partnerships, funding, research and awards. She leads Jerwood Arts' gallery programme in London and on tour around the UK, and was curator of recent exhibition 'Collaborate!' which showcased new commissions from early-career artist groups, collaborative practices and collectives. Prior to

this Harriet held roles at Firstsite, the British Council, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Tate Liverpool and The Whitworth Art Gallery; and was co-curator of Phyllida Barlow's commission 'folly' for the British Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017.

Yinka Ilori is a London-based multidisciplinary artist of British-Nigerian heritage, who specializes in fusing his dual cultural identities to tell new stories in contemporary design. He has exhibited internationally in solo shows, from 'Word Song Symbol; If Chairs Could Talk' at the British Library, 2015 to 'A Large Chair Does Not Make A King' at The Africa Centre, 2017, and group shows including 'Why Craft Matters' at Harewood House, 2019. Ilori's public commissions include 'Playground' at Cannes Lions, 2019, and 'Colour Palace', in collaboration with Pricegore, at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, 2019, and he has designed exhibitions such as 'Get Up Stand Up Now' at Somerset House, 2019. His work is featured in the public collections of Vitra Design Museum, Museum of London and Brighton and Hove Museum.

Junko Mori is an artist maker best known for her sculptural forms assembled with many hand-forged metal components, based around her core concept: "growing forms through repetition". She has studied in both Tokyo and London, and currently lives in the remote countryside of North Wales. Mori's works have been collected by numerous international galleries and museums.

Magdalene Odundo is a ceramic artist known for her inclusive approach to the craft and interest in multiple clay traditions. After graduating from the West Surrey College of Arts (a founder college of UCA), the Kenyan-born artist combined teaching and further study with a ceramic art practice. In 2001 UCA appointed her Professor of Ceramics, a post she held until her retirement in 2016. In 2008 she was awarded the OBE for services to the arts, along with the African Art Recognition Award by Detroit Art Institute's Friends of African and African-American Art. She was made Chancellor of UCA in 2018 and a Dame in the Queen's New Year's Honours List 2020. Her work is part of permanent collections at nearly 50 international museums including The British Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the National Museum of African Art in Washington, DC. Last year saw a major exhibition of her work at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts entitled, 'Magdalene Odundo: The Journey of Things'.

Christine Rew is Art Gallery & Museums Manager at Aberdeen City Council where she leads the team responsible for galleries, museums and archives. Throughout a professional career of over 35 years she has delivered large-scale exhibitions, capital projects and artist commissions. Originally from Glasgow, she joined Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums to develop the Decorative Art and Design collections, particularly jewellery, metalwork and silversmithing, along with 20th century design. She has published and curated several exhibitions on these subjects, including a comprehensive history of Aberdeen's silversmithing heritage in 2012. Since 2009 Christine has led the team working closely with architects and interpretation designers on the £34.6M redevelopment of Aberdeen Art Gallery which re-opened to visitors in November 2019.

Project credit:

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

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 159,000 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, which was won by St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff, in 2019, and through a range of digital platforms. 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.

Art Fund_

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