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Christina Mackie and The Nottingham Castle Museum win the Contemporary Art Society Annual Award 2011

Cornelia Parker OBE presents artist and museum £60,000 in London ceremony

The Contemporary Art Society has announced Christina Mackie and the Nottingham Castle Museum as the winning proposal for its Annual Award.

Taking place at the German Gymnasium in London last night, artist Cornelia Parker OBE presented the £60,000 prize to the winning museum for its proposal to commission a major new work of art, selected by a panel of judges. The award follows five British museums, paired with five prestigious artists, being shortlisted to win the prize earlier this year.

The Contemporary Art Society's Annual Award for museums - *commission to collect* - is now in its third year. The aim of Award is to support museums to commission new work through a £60,000 award funded by the Sfumato Foundation that, once completed will remain within the museum's permanent collection. The Award aims to encourage artists and museums to work together to create significant new works of art for their collections and for audiences now and in the future to enjoy. This is the UK's only award that supports contemporary art entering public collections through a new commission.

On winning the prize for the Nottingham Castle Museum, Councillor Dave Trimble, Portfolio holder for Leisure Culture and Tourism at Nottingham City Council said: "We are delighted to have won this prestigious award for Nottingham. It's a great acknowledgement of the work of our Museums & Galleries team and also well-deserved recognition for the artist Christina Mackie. The Award will enable us to support the realisation of Christina's ideas through to the creation of her new installation for Nottingham Castle, drawing inspiration from our important mineral and natural sciences collection at Wollaton Hall. Not only will this give us the opportunity to work with the artist to create a major piece, of national significance, it will also build on the founding mission of the Castle Museum to use our collections to inspire new creativity to provide an enriched experience for our many visitors, for years to come. This is entirely in keeping with our vision for the future of Nottingham Castle Museum."

Artist Christina Mackie, who will be creating the work with the Nottingham Castle Museum, said of winning the award: "I am thrilled to have had this opportunity to develop a relationship with Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery. We are really looking forward to continuing with this significant project we set out as a proposal and bringing it to completion within the context of this unique museum collection. This would not be possible without the Contemporary Art Society whose Annual Award directly supports contemporary art entering public collections via commission."

Paul Hobson, Director of Contemporary Art Society, said of this year's Annual Award winners: "This year's selection panel had a particularly difficult decision to make with a shortlist of proposals of especially high calibre for this, our third Annual Award for Museums. I would like to congratulate all the shortlisted museums for the exceptionally strong quality of their submissions; I know the panel would ideally have enabled all five proposals to be realised, but we could not be more delighted with their choice. Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery and their proposed commission with Christina Mackie will result in a great and significant new work that will be shown for the first time at the Castle in late 2012 and from then remain an important part of the ever evolving collection".

Previous winners of the Annual Award include the Hepworth Wakefield and Wolverhampton Art Gallery for their proposal with Luke Fowler and Museums Sheffield, the Graves Art Gallery with Katherina Šedá.

This year's panel of judges were **Adam Chodzko** (Artist), **Maurice Davies** (Head of Policy, Museums Association), **Rosy Greenlees** (Director, Crafts Council), **Michael Stanley** (Director, Modern Art Oxford).

In addition to announcing the Annual Award, the Contemporary Art Society also announced the release of its centenary publication, *What's Next? 100 Years of the Contemporary Art Society - Inside Public Collections*, edited by Lucy Byatt and Charlotte Troy (published by CT Editions, distributed by Thames and Hudson, 2011). The book looks back at what has been achieved over a century of gifting new works to public collections and expresses CAS's continuing commitment to acquiring challenging works by artists of our time for audiences of the future. The publication emphasises some of the current and future questions for public collections of art. A range of ideas and perspectives emerge to highlight the great potential that collections of art have to inspire all our imaginations. The 372-page book is available for sale at membership@contemporaryartsociety.org for £19.95 plus P&P.

The Annual Award is another initiative that meets the Contemporary Art Society's mission to develop public collections of contemporary art across the UK. The charity has gifted over 8,000 works over a period of 100 years, supporting artists when they were young and little known and ensured that some of the most important works are represented in collections across the UK.

For information on The Contemporary Art Society's Annual Award contact:

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Notes To Editor:

1. The CAS Annual Award Winning Proposal / About Christina Mackie:

Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery <http://www.mynottingham.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1036>

proposed to commission artist Christina Mackie. Christina Mackie's sculptural installations combine diverse natural, manmade and crafted materials to create a complex web of associations. Over the years she has developed a sophisticated materials-based language to give physical form to her personal thought processes. Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery has an eclectic mix of collections and experiences which they feel will provide a rich context for Mackie's work. Housed within a 17th century ducal mansion on a hill above a network of caves and the remains of a medieval castle, it is part art museum, part heritage site and pleasure grounds. Mackie's practice touches on painting, watercolour, drawing, ceramics, textiles, photography, film – the curators at Nottingham see opportunities to make connections between Mackie's work and so many aspects of their collections.

Christina Mackie (b. 1956) lives and works in London. In 2005 she won Becks Futures, and in 2010 was the winner of the Paul Hamlyn Prize for Artists. She has exhibited at Tate, Henry Moore Institute, Modern Art Oxford, Baltic and De La Warr Pavilion. She is currently working towards a solo exhibition at the Chisenhale. Mackie is represented by Herald Street, London. For more information contact: **Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery** www.mynottingham.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1036
<<http://www.mynottingham.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1036>>

To view a film on Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery's entry please download here;
http://dl.dropbox.com/u/1595045/CAS/Nottingham_Museum.mp4?dl
<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/1595045/CAS/Nottingham_Museum.mp4?dl>

2. The CAS Award For Museum Shortlist, 2011:

National Museum Wales (Cardiff) with Artes Mundi - Proposal with artist Andrea Büttner
Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery - Proposal with artist Christina Mackie
Shipley Art Gallery - Proposal with artist Matthew Darbyshire
Walker Art Gallery, National Museums Liverpool - Proposal with artist Wael Shawky
University of Warwick Art Collection - Proposal with artist Katie Paterson

3. The aim of the **Contemporary Art Society's** Annual Award is to support museums to commission new work that, once completed, will remain within the museum's permanent collection. Application proposals are welcomed from museums that have not yet commissioned new work as well as from those with more experience. Museums must be able to commit at least £5,000 towards the development of a publication or catalogue. £1000 is made available to all short-listed museums to work up the detailed proposal including the artist's time and contribution. Detailed proposals will be submitted by 30 October 2011 and the Award winner will be announced at the reception for our Annual Award in London in November. The Award is open to artists anywhere in the world and all of the Contemporary Art Society's Museum Members.

4. Founded in 1910, the Contemporary Art Society exists to support and develop public collections of contemporary art in the UK. We do so by raising the funds to purchase and commission new works of contemporary art for a national network of public collections, which subscribe to us as Member Museums and Galleries, and by soliciting gifts of works to these collections for public benefit. For 100 years, we have played a unique and largely solitary role in the formation of public collections of contemporary art in this country, donating more than 8,000 works where they are enjoyed by audiences everywhere. We continue to act as a catalyst for the visual arts in the UK, developing audiences, artists, curators, collectors and collections alike. We are a national membership organisation, bringing together individuals, institutions and organisations, including contemporary art enthusiasts and collectors, curators and artists, commercial gallerists and a UK-wide network of public collections in regional museums and art galleries. All proceeds raised through our diverse activities are used to purchase new works of art for our Member Museums and Galleries. www.contemporaryartsociety.org <<http://www.contemporaryartsociety.org>>

5. Biographies of Panel:

Maurice Davies is head of policy and communication at the Museums Association. He's previously worked in several other roles at the MA including editor of Museums Journal and deputy director. He's also been a curator at Manchester City Art Galleries and a Turner Scholar at Tate. He's been involved in a wide range of initiatives in the museum sector including recently sustainability and museums, illicit trade in cultural property, human remains in museums, aspects of the MA's Collections for the Future report, entry to and diversity of the

museum workforce and research into the impact of major lottery projects on museum visiting in London. He has a doctorate in art history from the Courtauld Institute, University of London and a first degree in pure mathematics from the University of Warwick.

Rosy Greenlees has been Executive Director of the Crafts Council since 2006. The Crafts Council is the national agency for the promotion of contemporary craft. It delivers a wide range of programmes including supporting makers' professional development, working with regional museums and galleries creating exhibitions and collections; stimulating the market for craft; and promoting craft education and learning.

Rosy spent the first half of her career as a visual arts curator. Since then she has worked in senior cultural management roles: as Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Visual and Media Art for Eastern Arts Board; Cultural Strategy Manager responsible for the Mayor of London's first Culture Strategy and Director of the Higher Education knowledge transfer partnership London Centre for Arts and Cultural Enterprise (LCACE). Rosy is a Board member of Creative and Cultural Skills and a Fellow of the RSA.

Adam Chodzko (Born in 1965. Lives and works in Whitstable, Kent, UK). Since 1991 Chodzko, as an artist working in multi-media and between gallery-based artworks to socially engaged interventions and situations in a wider public realm, has exhibited extensively in international solo and group exhibitions including: Tate, St Ives; Museo d'Arte Moderna, Bologna (MAMBo); Athens Biennale, Istanbul Biennale, Venice Biennale; Royal Academy, London; Deste Foundation, Athens; PS1, NY; Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, Kunstmuseum Luzern etc. Recent projects include commissions by Creative Time, New York, The Contemporary Art Society, Frieze Art Fair, and Hayward Gallery. In 2002 he received awards from the Hamlyn Foundation and the Foundation for Contemporary Art, New York, and in 2007 was awarded an AHRC Research Fellowship in the Film Department at the University of Kent, Canterbury. His work is in the collections of the Tate, The British Council, The Arts Council, APT, Auckland City Art Gallery, Contemporary Art Society Collection, The Creative Foundation, Frac Languedoc-Rousillon, GAM - Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Turin, Grizedale Arts, MAMBo - Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Plains Arts Museum, North Dakota, USA, Saatchi Collection, South London Gallery, Towner Gallery Eastbourne, and international private collections.

Michael Stanley is Director of Modern Art Oxford one of the country's leading venues for the presentation of international contemporary art. Previously he worked as Director of Milton Keynes Gallery 2004 – 2009 where he was responsible for two Turner Prize nominated exhibitions; Yeah....you, baby you! by Phil Collins and Cathy Wilkes in 2008, as well as a range of first UK solo exhibitions including Roger Hiorns and Phillip Allen and by international artists including Pae White, Carlos Amorales, Carlos Bunga and Adrian Paci. Most recently he curated the widely acclaimed survey exhibition of work by Marcel Broodthaers and an exhibition of work by the late James Lee Byars for the Venice Biennale 2009. He has also introduced new strands of programming including offsite projects by Johanna Billing, Wolfgang Weileder and Langlands & Bell.

As Curator at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (2002-2004) he was curated the Turner Prize nominated exhibition by Anya Gallaccio as well as the critically acclaimed exhibition by George Shaw; What I Did this Summer. He has worked with international venues and artists creating collaborations, including SMAK, K29, St. Gallen, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneve, MUDAM, Luxembourg and Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama. Michael previously worked as Curator of Art at Compton Verney (2000-2002) where he took the lead curatorial role in developing a series of major projects including Aleksandra Mir and the capital development of the gallery which opened in 2004. He also founded an independent commissioning organisation called epilogue (1997–2001) where he curated non-gallery exhibitions such as Tabley (2000).

Michael received a First Class Honours degree from the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford University (1992-1995). He is a school governor and married with three young children.