

PRESS RELEASE: 30 NOVEMBER 2021



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



Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open

28 January – 9 April 2022, Jerwood Arts, London

Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open returns in 2022 for its eighth edition, showcasing new work by **Anna Berry, Cecilia Charlton, Jahday Ford, Vicky Higginson** and **Francisca Onumah and Helena Russell**. These outstanding early-career artists and makers will display their commissions at Jerwood Space, London from 28 January to 9 April 2022.

Showcasing a broad range of material disciplines, including glass, textiles, digital modelling, silversmithing and sculptural installation, the five commissions provide a snapshot of some of the most exciting new work being produced by UK-based artists and makers. Although working across a variety of mediums and processes, the makers explore some common themes across their works such as the relationship between digital technology and traditional techniques, the potential of repetition in making, the power of tools, and the rich history of their material practices.

The exhibition allows research, concepts and experimentation to shine alongside the extraordinary craftsmanship of the objects created by the selected artists and makers. Giving the awardees an extended production period for this edition has proven key in developing their ideas on an even more significant level, marking the start of projects and explorations, which will expand past these commissions.

- **Anna Berry** will present *A Fall from Grace*, a new sculptural work using her signature geometric visual vocabulary and repetitive processes using cones as a way of creating a three-dimensional structure. Focussing on porcelain and concrete as her core materials, both of which are new to Berry's practice, the piece will look at ideas of balance, power and precarity – how two materials at the opposite ends of the spectrum in terms of their fragility can exist within the same structure. Conceptually, the work proposes that ideas that can be a force for good can also become tyrannical when balance is lost. annaberry.co.uk
- **Cecilia Charlton** will display her largest work to date: a human-size abstract triptych of Bargello embroideries, inspired by the Greek myth of the Three Fates who spin, allot and cut the Thread of Life. Each panel presents the characteristics of one of the Fates, with a unique combination of colour palette and stitch patterns. The embroidery will be stretched over a gilded surface, allowing for the negative spaces in the work to glisten through. Charlton uses the Three Fates to reflect on the different stages of human life and the paths one has to walk through it, forcing us to examine our place on the planet and our relationships to one another. ceciliacharlton.com
- **Jahday Ford** will display *Axle*, a family of large glass vessels, which combine ancient techniques with contemporary innovations to challenge what is possible with the material today. Interested in exploring the relationships between the digital and the hand-made form, the works will extend Ford's current glass investigations into processes such as 3D Modelling and using CNC mould production alongside traditionally hand-blown elements. His installation comprises of three distinct groups of coloured glass works, with one interactive piece using LED sensors to illuminate when visitors are within a close proximity of it in the gallery space. jahdayfordglass.co.uk
- **Vicky Higginson's** commission for the exhibition will be a set of varied healing devices imagined to treat emotional ailments. Made through combining hand-blown and cold-worked glass

elements in a variety of bold colours, the pieces will be presented on custom made metal stands and plinths. Inspired by research into the shape and function of historic medical instruments the devices will include: ear trumpets, to hear things left unsaid; a pestle and mortar, to break down overwhelming thoughts; an anaesthesia inhaler to numb grief; and a reflex hammer. Continuing her exploration into 'Folk Futurism' the objects on display will look at the meeting point of folklore and fairy tales with science fiction. New techniques developed for this commission will showcase the use of feathers, mirroring, and symbolic mark-making. vickyhigginson.com

- Working in collaboration and using a hoard of old silversmithing tools as a starting point, **Francisca Onumah** and **Helena Russell's** installation comprises of three elements coming together in the gallery space. Central to the work will be a collection of five collaboratively made vessels in copper and silver, displayed on one large plinth. Alongside this, the pair will display a series of found tools they have refurbished and repurposed to make the vessels, and aspects of their research into the past, present and future of the silversmithing industry in Sheffield, where they are both based. Through this commission Onumah and Russell have documented the personal histories of three Sheffield-based silversmiths, who have been involved in the industry in different capacities throughout most of their careers. The project aims to challenge ideas of 'preciousness' and whether it sits with the final product or the making process itself. franciscaonumah.co.uk helenarussell.co.uk

The exhibition at Jerwood Space is co-curated by Harriet Cooper, Head of Visual Arts at Jerwood Arts and Svetlana Panova, Curator and Project Coordinator who is based at Aberdeen Art Gallery in a role co-funded by Jerwood Arts and Art Fund to support curatorial development in the field of visual arts, crafts and applied art in museums and galleries. The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of events developed in dialogue with the artists and a new publication detailing their commissions.

Following the exhibition at Jerwood Space, the works will go on a national tour throughout 2022-2023, travelling from Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange in Cornwall (4 June – 22 October 2022) to Aberdeen Art Gallery in the North East of Scotland (19 November 2022 – 4 March 2023). Throughout the tour Art Fund are supporting each venue with funding to programme curatorial development activities, further deepening critical debate, visibility and dialogue around contemporary craft and applied arts across the UK.

Recognising and promoting the significance of making practice and process within contemporary visual arts, Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open 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. The awardees are able to explore their ideas outside of commercial pressures, with dedicated developmental, curatorial and production support from Jerwood Arts.

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**, formerly Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums Manager; and **Harriet Cooper**, Head of Visual Arts at Jerwood Arts. 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.

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.

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.

--ENDS--

Image credits: First row (L-R): Jahday Ford, Axle, 2021. Photography by Simon Bruntnell; Vicky Higginson, Untitled (detail), 2021, Photo courtesy of the Artist; Francisca Onumah and Helena Russell, 2021, Untitled, Photo courtesy of the Artist. Second row (L-R): Anna Berry, A Fall From Grace, 2021, Photo courtesy of the Artist; Cecilia Charlton, Untitled (detail), 2021, Photo courtesy of the Artist

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

Harriet Clarke | Harriet.Clarke@fourcommunications.com | +44 (0)7384 917 947

Olivia Riggon | Olivia.Riggon@fourcommunications.com

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 practice. 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 premiered in 2021 at Milton Keynes International Festival and will continue to tour in 2022. She was also 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 and an MA Painting from the Royal College of Art in 2018. Cecilia's work draws on her upbringing as the daughter of a seamstress, utilizing textile processes to explore the effects of abstraction, geometric pattern, colour and composition. Recent projects include Love Token, a commission in the shop window of Robert Young Antiques, Battersea as part of their Contemporary Collaborations programme (August and September 2021). She also ran a series of 15 textile workshops with 55+ Ilford residents through SPACE Studios, which culminated in the solo exhibition Mammoth Loop in SPACE Ilford's gallery (October 2021 through January 2022). 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 SURGE: the Eastwing Biennial, Courtauld Institute, 2018.

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. His most recent work was showcased with Yorkshire Sculpture Park – a collaboration with Studio Morison on the installation - 'Silence : Alone in a World of Wounds' 2021.

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 alumna 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. Francisca's work was featured in Maker's Eye: Stories of Craft at Crafts Council Gallery, London, followed by Craft Festival Bovey Tracey in September 2021. Currently her work is on display as part of We Gather at Crafts Council Gallery until 5th February. In March 2022 Francisca will take part in the Harewood House Craft Biennial and will complete a window display for Bluecoat Display Centre, Liverpool.

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. Helena presented work at Goldsmiths Fair again in October 2021. 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 / Aberdeen City Council

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 Bandoowkwa, 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 early-career UK-based 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 and online. jerwoodarts.org

Summary of current programmes:

Multi Artform

- The [1:1 FUND](#), funding 42 collaborative pairings of artists £2k each from across art forms to work together following the isolating impact of the pandemic
- The [Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries 2019-22](#), funding and working with 50 Host organisations and 51 artist-Fellows to tackle social mobility in the arts across the UK
- The [Development Programme Fund 2019-21](#), supporting 19 arts organisations to run specialist artist development programmes

Visual Arts

- [Survey II](#), a touring exhibition showcasing new work by 10 artists nominated by other artists
- [Jerwood/Photoworks Awards](#), two £15k commissions and touring exhibition for artists working with photography
- [Jerwood/FVU Awards](#), two £25k commissions and touring exhibition for artists working with moving image
- [Jerwood Art Fund Makers Open](#), five £8k commissions and touring exhibition for crafts and making practices
- [Jerwood Curatorial Accelerator](#), a new pilot scheme to provide curatorial and leadership development for visual arts curators from low socio-economic backgrounds
- [Jerwood Writer in Residence](#), two annual opportunities for arts writers

Touring partners include [Aberdeen Art Gallery](#), [Belfast Exposed](#), [g39 in Cardiff](#), [Leeds Art Gallery](#), [Newlyn Art Gallery](#) and [The Exchange in Penzance](#), and [Site Gallery](#) in Sheffield.

Literature and the Performing Arts

- [Live Work Fund](#), 33 of £20k awards for sustaining and reimagining live practices for a supported year
- [Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellowships](#), three £15k awards for poets to create a step-change in their practices during a supported year
- Major grants for national co-commissions including:
 - [Contains Strong Language](#) at the Coventry City of Culture
 - [Sonia Hughes' I Am From Reykjavik](#) at Spill Festival in Ipswich
 - Lorna Rees' Geophonic and Dave Young's Partnering with Earth at [InsideOut Festival](#) in Dorset
- [NDT Broadgate](#), providing free rehearsal space for independent artists in the heart of London
- [Another Route](#), a new 18-month artist fellowship programme to create new work for international presentation
- [PRS Foundation's The Composers Fund](#), grants for contemporary classical composers

Funding partners include [Arts Council England](#), [Arts Council of Wales](#), [Art Fund](#), [British Council](#), [Creative Scotland](#), [Esmée Fairbairn Foundation](#), [Garfield Weston Foundation](#), [The Linbury Trust](#), [PRS Foundation](#) and [Wolfson Foundation](#).

Exhibitions:

[Survey II](#): Major touring exhibition led by Jerwood Arts that presents new commissions by ten of the most outstanding early-career artists in the UK. Jerwood Arts, London. 1 October – 11 December 2021.

News:

[Information and Guidance for UK Based Artists and Organisations](#): In response to ongoing Covid-19 developments we have compiled this list to signpost professional advice, support and guidance for UK-based independent artists, curators, producers, arts workers and artist-led organisations.

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. In response to Covid-19 Art Fund has made £3.6 million in urgent funding available to support museums through reopening and beyond, including Respond and Reimagine grants to help meet immediate need and reimagine future ways of working. Art Fund is independently funded, supported by the 131,000 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. The winner of Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021 is Firstsite in Colchester.

About Aberdeen Art Gallery. Aberdeen Art Gallery is Aberdeen City Council's flagship cultural venue. It is home to one of the finest collections in the UK. Spanning over 700 years, the Collection of National Significance includes works by important Scottish artists, designers and makers such as Henry Raeburn, Joan Eardley, Samuel Peploe, Rachel McLean, Bill Gibb and James Cromar Watt, as well as nationally and internationally-acclaimed artists including Barbara Hepworth, Francis Bacon, Tracey Emin and Claude Monet. For over 130 years Aberdeen Art Gallery has been acquiring the best and most interesting contemporary artworks. We are proud to care for these treasures on behalf of the people of Aberdeen and to share their stories with all our visitors. Between 2015 and 2019 the Art Gallery underwent a landmark redevelopment supported by Aberdeen City Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Aberdeen Art Gallery was a joint winner of the prestigious Art Fund Museum of the Year 2020. On 30 November 2021 the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) announced that Aberdeen Art Gallery – designed by Hoskins Architects – is the winner of the 2021 Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland Award. www.aagm.co.uk

Newlyn Art Gallery & 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_ JERWOOD ARTS

JERWOOD SPACE



ABERDEEN
ART
GALLERY



NEWLYN
ART GALLERY
& THE
EXCHANGE