

Press release – 2 March 2016

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD TO RECEIVE ONE OF THE UK'S LARGEST BEQUESTS
COMPRISING 400 WORKS OF ART AND A THREE STOREY VICTORIAN LONDON HOUSE



THE TIM SAYER BEQUEST

THE TIM SAYER BEQUEST: A PRIVATE COLLECTION REVEALED
30 APRIL – 9 OCTOBER

The Hepworth Wakefield is delighted to announce details of one of the UK's largest bequests in recent years and one of the most significant gifts to Wakefield by a private collector.

The entire collection of more than 400 works - comprising ceramics, sculptures, paintings and works on paper, as well as a significant library of books - is to be gifted to the Wakefield Permanent Art Collection, held at The Hepworth Wakefield in West Yorkshire. Sayer was motivated to leave his collection following a visit to the Yorkshire gallery in 2015. He said: "I was amazed by David Chipperfield's remarkable building with its sequence of ten beautifully-lit gallery spaces, and I realised that it would be the perfect home for my collection."

London-based art collector Tim Sayer, a retired BBC Radio 4 newsreader has been passionately collecting for over 50 years. The collection includes works by some of the world's greatest artists: Alexander Calder, Anthony Caro, Sonia Delaunay, David Hockney, Henry Moore, Sol Lewitt, Paul Nash, Gerhard Richter and Bridget Riley.

From 30 April until 25 October, a new exhibition at The Hepworth Wakefield titled *The Tim Sayer Bequest: A Private Collection Revealed* will celebrate the bequest, with a display of approximately 100 works as part of the gallery's 5th anniversary programme. This will be the first time that this art collection will be publicly displayed.

The exhibition will include a small selection from a portfolio of more than 150 early prints – the first works that Tim Sayer collected – alongside significant groupings of works by Naum Gabo and Prunella Clough. Works by over 50 other artists will be exhibited, from sculpture by David Nash and Jonathan Miller, to ceramics by Ewen Henderson and Gordon Baldwin. The exhibition will explore the domestic context of the collection, which currently occupies almost every surface of Sayer’s home.

Tim Sayer added: “It gives us great satisfaction to pledge our collection to The Hepworth Wakefield, where it will be enjoyed by generations of gallery goers for many years to come within such a superb building and inspiring art historical context. As a self-confessed ‘art-oholic’, my collection has been a lifetime’s passion, inspired by seeing the collection at Kettle’s Yard, which I’m delighted will be on display concurrently.”

Sir Nicholas Serota, Director of Tate said: “The Tim Sayer Bequest is one of the most significant and generous donations to a regional gallery in the UK. The collection reflects the discriminating eye of a person of modest means, whose passion for art ‘took precedence over holidays’. The Hepworth Wakefield, with its fine sequence of galleries, will be enormously enriched by the bequest. At times like these, with public funding cutbacks, arts and heritage organisations need all the private help they can get. It would be wonderful if Tim Sayer’s example encouraged other collectors to be as generous. I hope that we can make private giving to the arts and other charities an everyday part of our social and cultural life.”

Cllr Peter Box CBE, Leader of Wakefield Council said: “This wonderful, generous, gift will contribute significantly to expanding the Wakefield Permanent Art Collection as a major public resource that is much loved and well used. It builds on the strategic investment we have made in creating The Hepworth Wakefield to ensure that culture-led regeneration continues ambitiously in the region.”

Simon Wallis OBE, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield said: “Philanthropic gifts such as this play a vital role in nurturing our nationally important visual arts in West Yorkshire. Through the generosity of individuals and many of the artists we have worked with, as well as the support of institutions such as the Art Fund and Contemporary Art Society, we have grown the collection considerably. We have secured acquisitions and gifts totalling more than £7 million since the gallery opened in 2011, which began with The Hepworth Family Gift. Continuing to build on the legacy of Wakefield’s unique collection has been a fundamental part of our ambitions at The Hepworth Wakefield and there will be the opportunity to see some of these newly acquired works in our new collection displays during our 5th anniversary year.”

He added: “We realise the vital importance of collecting for current and future generations. I am delighted therefore to announce that we will be introducing the *Own Art* scheme at the gallery later this year, to help aspiring collectors develop their own art collections.”

The Tim Sayer Bequest will be exhibited as part of The Hepworth Wakefield’s spring-summer exhibitions programme, which includes: *Kettle’s Yard at The Hepworth Wakefield* (21 May – 4 September); and *Yorkshire: Hepworth, Moore and the Landscape* (30 April – Spring 2017), an exhibition celebrates the artistic heritage of Wakefield and Yorkshire with a major display of paintings from the Wakefield Permanent Art Collection, and key works by Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore.

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The Hepworth Wakefield takes its name from the internationally acclaimed sculptor, Barbara Hepworth, who was born in Wakefield in 1903. At 5,000 square metres, The Hepworth Wakefield is one of largest contemporary art spaces outside London.

The gallery showcases Wakefield's nationally important collection, which includes major works by Barbara Hepworth and her contemporary Henry Moore, born nearby in Castleford in 1898. The Wakefield Permanent Art Collection also holds key works by other leading British artists including Ben Nicholson, Jacob Epstein, Ivon Hitchens, Graham Sutherland, John Piper, Paul Nash, Patrick Heron, L.S. Lowry and Lucie Rie. The displays are enhanced by loans from the collections of Tate, the Arts Council, the British Council and private lenders.

The Hepworth Wakefield's temporary exhibition programme features the world's leading contemporary artists. Past shows have included Eva Rothschild, Franz West, Philip-Lorca diCorcia and Haroon Mirza.

The gallery is a major cultural asset for Yorkshire, enhancing the region's reputation as one of the world's leading centres for the exhibition and appreciation of sculpture and is at the heart of Wakefield's regeneration. In 2013, Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle was established by partner venues, The Hepworth Wakefield, the Henry Moore Institute, Leeds Art Gallery and Yorkshire Sculpture Park as an umbrella brand to celebrate this heritage and to promote sculpture in Yorkshire.

Designed by the internationally acclaimed practice, David Chipperfield Architects, The Hepworth Wakefield is the UK's largest purpose-built gallery since The Hayward in London was built in 1968. It acts as a catalyst for tourism and has attracted in excess of £350 million inward investment. The on-going development in Wakefield city centre includes a new retail project Trinity Walk, a £140 million transformation of Wakefield Merchant Gate, which has created a new business quarter for Wakefield, and an £8 million development of Wakefield Westgate train station. The ambition is to further develop the historically important Waterfront area of the city, with its listed mills and warehouses.

The Hepworth Wakefield is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England and an increasing number of charitable trusts, private individuals, Patrons and Members. The gallery opened on 21 May 2011 and welcomed its millionth visitor on 5 December 2013.

The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, Wakefield WF1 5AW

Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 5pm

Closed Mondays (except Bank and local school holidays)

Late night opening - third Thursday of every month, 10am – 9pm.

Free admission (except for ticketed events)

Twitter: @HepworthGallery

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheHepworthWakefield

Instagram: [hepworthwakefield](https://www.instagram.com/hepworthwakefield)

THE CALDER

The Calder is The Hepworth Wakefield's new contemporary art space which opened to the public on 30 August 2013. Located on the ground floor of a 19th century former textiles mill, the new contemporary art space is situated adjacent to the main gallery site, on the banks of the River Calder. The Calder adds 600 square metres of exhibition and event space to the existing 10 gallery spaces within The Hepworth Wakefield and presents a mixed programme of art, music and events that runs in parallel to the visitor offer at the main gallery.

The Calder, Gallery Walk, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW

Free admission (except for ticketed events)

Twitter: @HepworthGallery #TheCalder

Instagram: [instagram.com/thecalder](https://www.instagram.com/thecalder)

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