

PRESS RELEASE – 19 JULY 2013

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD'S NEW COMMISSION WITH SCULPTOR DES HUGHES
IS SHORTLISTED FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS £60,000
CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY ANNUAL AWARD FOR MUSEUMS

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The Hepworth Wakefield is delighted to announce that the gallery has been shortlisted for one of the highest value contemporary art awards in the country.

Now in its fifth year, the prestigious £60,000 prize is awarded to a UK museum to commission an artist of their choice to create a new work that will enrich their permanent collection. The award also provides support and exposure for the winning artist at a critical point in their career.

The Hepworth Wakefield's proposal for a new outdoor commission by artist Des Hughes will open to the public in 2014. The gallery previously won the award in 2010 with a partnership proposal with Wolverhampton Art Gallery, in association with Film and Video Umbrella and artist Luke Fowler, later exhibited at the two galleries in 2012 to critical acclaim.

Simon Wallis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield explained: *"It's a wonderful achievement for the gallery to be shortlisted again for this award, especially in light of the strong competition. It is also a great moment for Des Hughes and I very much hope we can help to realise the full potential of this exciting new commission by winning this award and continuing to put Yorkshire on the map for inspiring contemporary art."*

Des Hughes, artist, said: *"I'm delighted to make it to the shortlist stage for this prestigious and valuable award and to have the opportunity to develop an ambitious commission with The Hepworth Wakefield into something really special for a large audience."*

Sophia Bardsley, Deputy Director, Contemporary Art Society said: *"The Contemporary Art Society Annual Award Panel is very pleased to have been able to shortlist The Hepworth Wakefield. Des Hughes' proposal deals with British modernist sculptural history and its direct link to The Hepworth Wakefield's permanent collection. Hughes' work is currently under-represented in public collections and a commission at The Hepworth Wakefield would see a significant work being produced and on permanent display for the benefit of a wide audience. The panel looks forward to receiving the proposal from The Hepworth Wakefield and Des Hughes for this ambitious project."*

The four finalists and their nominated artists in line to receive this year's Contemporary Art Society Annual Award for Museums are:

- Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology in partnership with the Pitt Rivers Museum and the Ruskin School of Drawing & Fine Art with artist Elizabeth Price

- Birmingham Museums with artist Jess Flood-Paddock
- The Hepworth Wakefield with artist Des Hughes
- Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art with artist Lucy McKenzie

The shortlisted galleries and museums with their nominated artists will now create a full proposal for their new commissions, to be considered by the 2013 judging panel. The judging panel for the 2013 award includes a mix of leading names in the field of contemporary art and comprises: Brian Griffiths (artist), Charlotte Higgins (Chief Arts Writer, The Guardian), Elizabeth Neilson (Director, Zabludowicz Collection), and Kirsty Ogg (Curator, Whitechapel Gallery).

Elizabeth Neilson, Director, Zabludowicz Collection, said: "It was a challenge to select four proposals when every one of the applications should be seen through to completion. This cannot be understood in terms of 'winners' and 'losers' but rather a process to select the right proposal for this award. I expect the next stage of selection to be even harder."

The winners of the £60,000 prize will be announced in an award ceremony in London on 18 November 2013, in the presence of artists, curators, collectors and art world VIPs. The presenter of the award will be announced shortly; previous presenters have included Grayson Perry, Cornelia Parker and Jeremy Deller.

The Hepworth Wakefield offers free admission to a year-round programme of contemporary exhibitions, collection displays, events and family-friendly activities. This summer the gallery will be opening a new contemporary art space, with an inaugural exhibition by Roger Hiorns.

For full details visit the website www.hepworthwakefield.org or call 01924 247360.

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

Yorkshire's new gallery is at the heart of Wakefield's regeneration. Designed by the internationally acclaimed practice, David Chipperfield Architects, it is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England with additional funding from a number of charitable trusts and private individuals. The gallery opened on 21 May 2011 and attracted 512,000 visitors within the first 12 months.

After two years of being open to the public, The Hepworth Wakefield has exceeded all expectations by attracting over 850,000 visitors to date. This is more than five times the original target for the gallery and helps establish Wakefield as a significant destination for ambitious art, architecture and learning.

The Hepworth Wakefield is part of several partnerships including: Tate Plus; Art in Yorkshire and the Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle.

The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW

Free admission

Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm and 10am – 9pm on the Third Thursday of every month

Closed Mondays (except for Bank Holidays and school holidays)

www.hepworthwakefield.org

01924 247360

Twitter: www.twitter.com/HepworthGallery

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheHepworthWakefield

DES HUGHES

Born in 1970 in Birmingham, Des Hughes lives and works in Herefordshire.

Solo exhibitions include 'Endless Endless 'Frame', Frieze Art Fair, 2010, 'Small Collections', Nottingham Contemporary, 2010 and 'Des Hughes and Richard Hughes', Michael Benevento, Los Angeles, 2008. Group shows 'Dystopia', CAPC, Musée d'art contemporain, Bordeaux, 2011 and 'Sometimes I wish I could just disappear', David Risley Gallery, Copenhagen, 2011. 'Never The Same River (Possible Futures, Probable Pasts)', Camden Arts Centre, London, curated by Simon Starling, 2010 and 'BigMinis, Fetishes of Crisis', cur Alexi Vaillant, CAPC centre d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, 2010.

CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY

The Contemporary Art Society is a national charity that encourages an appreciation and understanding of contemporary art in the UK. With the help of our members and supporters we raise funds to purchase works by new artists which we give to museums and public galleries where they are enjoyed by a national audience; we broker significant and rare works of art by important artists of the twentieth century for public collections through our networks of patrons and private collectors; we establish relationships to commission artworks and promote contemporary art in public spaces; and we devise programmes of displays, artist talks and educational events. Since 1910 we have donated over 8,000 works to museums and public galleries - from Bacon, Freud, Hepworth and Moore in their day through to the influential artists of our own times - championing new talent, supporting curators, and encouraging philanthropy and collecting in the UK.

For more information visit the website: www.contemporaryartsociety.co.uk

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