

Press Release - 4 October 2011

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD WINS BEST ARCHITECTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AT THE BRITISH DESIGN AWARDS 2011

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The Hepworth Wakefield has won *Best Architectural Achievement* category at The British Design Awards 2011, organised by Elle Decoration, in association with John Lewis and supported by the Telegraph Magazine.

Now in their tenth year, the British Design Awards recognise beautiful, useful and original new work created by designers for UK and international brands. The Hepworth Wakefield has beaten stiff competition from the remaining four projects shortlist for the Best Architectural Achievement, which included Heatherwick Studio's UK Pavilion at the Shanghai Expo 2010, RHWL and Richard Griffiths Architects' St Pancras Renaissance Hotel in London. Plasma Studio's The Creativity Pavillion and Alain de Botton's Living Architecture.

The public cast votes for their favourite projects online at thebritishdesignawards.com from a shortlist of five projects in each category, chosen by the Elle Decoration team and David Nicholls from The Telegraph. A full list of winners will be announced in the December edition of Elle Decoration, on sale 2 November and The Saturday Telegraph (on sale 6 November). Each vote was entered into a prize draw to win £5,000 John Lewis vouchers.

Simon Wallis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield said: "*This is a fantastic achievement for the gallery and David Chipperfield Architects and our heartfelt thanks go to our voters, who have recognised the quality of our gallery and helped us win this award. The Hepworth Wakefield is one of the most sensitively designed galleries to be found anywhere, and having recently welcomed over 250,000 visitors, it is now one of the most visited in the UK.*"

The Hepworth Wakefield joins previous winners for the *Best Architectural Achievement* - McInnes Usher McKnight Architects (MUMA) for the V&A Medieval & Renaissance Galleries (2010) and Rick Mather Architects for the Towner Gallery (2009) and concludes a sensational summer and fantastic first few months for the gallery, which opened to the public on 21 May 2011. In the first four months of opening The Hepworth Wakefield has welcomed over 250,000 visitors, which includes 5,000 visitors from schools & colleges and over 20,000 participants for the gallery's family summer programme.

Oliver Ulmer, Project Director from David Chipperfield Architects said: "We are delighted that The Hepworth Wakefield has been chosen the readers of Elle Decoration from a shortlist of such interesting projects around the world."

The Hepworth Wakefield has already provided a huge boost for the local economy and is attracting visitors from across the world, as well as from Yorkshire and other parts of the UK. The gallery is now a top national attraction and visitors are spending an estimated average of £21 each during their visit to Wakefield. The first 250,000 visitors to the gallery have now generated over £5m worth of income for the local economy, with money being spent in local shops, restaurants, cafes, pubs, other attractions and hotels.

Wakefield Council Leader Cllr Peter Box CBE said: "This award is a real endorsement for The Hepworth Wakefield from the public and I am delighted that it is having such a positive impact on people."

He continued: "The Hepworth Wakefield is something that everyone in this district can be justly proud of. Its reputation is growing all the time, and together with the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, is establishing Wakefield both nationally and internationally as a city of sculpture. The economic effect is being felt throughout the district as visitors take in the city centre and other attractions. The fact that we've have now topped 250,000 visitors and won two prestigious awards in just four months I think speaks for itself."

The Hepworth Wakefield has recently unveiled new gallery displays and this week is the last opportunity to see Eva Rothschild's *Hot Touch* exhibition before it closes on 9 October and goes on tour to Hannover in Germany. The gallery's next exhibition features the work of artist Clare Woods. *The Unquiet Head* (22 October 2011 - 29 January 2012) features a series of large-scale new works made in response to gallery spaces at The Hepworth Wakefield and the Yorkshire landscape.

Admission to the gallery is free. For further details of the gallery's new autumn programme of exhibitions and events please visit www.hepworthwakefield.org or ring 01924 247360.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information about, listings or images of The Hepworth Wakefield please contact Naomi Roberts, Media Officer on 01924 247392 or email naomiroberts@hepworthwakefield.org

EDITOR'S NOTES:

About The Hepworth Wakefield

The Hepworth Wakefield is Yorkshire's inspiring new art gallery that explores the area's unique artistic legacy through our collection and presents the work of major contemporary artists. Designed by David Chipperfield Architects, it is the UK's largest purpose-built gallery since The Hayward in London was built in 1968.

The Hepworth Wakefield is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England with additional funding from a number of charitable trusts and private individuals.

Current exhibitions include Eva Rothschild's *Hot Touch* (until 9 October) and the outdoor artist commission in the gallery grounds, *The Black Cloud* by Heather and Ivan Morison.

The gallery has launched its new autumn/winter programme with new opening hours for autumn/winter introduced from Tuesday 4 October 2011.

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

Admission Free

Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm.

Closed Mondays (except for Bank holidays and school holidays)

www.hepworthwakefield.org