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LONDON ART FAIR COLLABORATES WITH OFFICIAL MUSEUM PARTNER ART UK TO STAGE SPECIAL EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF 30 YEARS

- Five leading contemporary artists - Sonia Boyce, Mat Collishaw, Haroon Mirza, Oscar Murillo and Rose Wylie - select works from Art UK for one-off exhibition at London Art Fair 2018
- *'Art of the Nation: Five Artists Choose'* is the first exhibition staged by digital platform Art UK, to showcase public collections across the UK
- Art UK is the official Museum Partner of London Art Fair, which will present leading British and international galleries alongside curated spaces from 17 - 21 January 2018 (Preview 16 January)

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, London Art Fair has partnered with Art UK to stage a unique exhibition highlighting 30 remarkable works from the nation's public art collections.

As the Fair's official 2018 Museum Partner, Art UK will present its first ever exhibition - *'Art of the Nation: Five Artists Choose'* - from 17 - 21 January 2018. Reflecting the mission of the charity and its digital platform - the show will shine a spotlight on the rich and diverse regional collections showcased on **artuk.org**, the online home to every public art collection in the UK, which features over 200,000 artworks from over 3,250 venues.

In an exhibition curated by **Kathleen Soriano**, Art UK has invited five leading contemporary artists to each select 20th and 21st century works from the Art UK online platform. Each artist has chosen up to six works within a theme that is both personal and speaks to their individual interests. The works selected will come from some twenty-five collections across the UK including Rugby Art Gallery and Museum Collections; New Hall Art Collection, Cambridge; Heritage Motor Centre, Warwickshire; South Shields Museum and Art Gallery and the University of Hull Art Collection.





In his selection, **Oscar Murillo** has taken inspiration from a Palestinian poem, selecting works which include *Jets* by Robert Priseman (1965, Rugby Art Gallery and Museum), a part of the artist's series 'The Promised Land' which examines the conflict in Palestine from both sides. **Sonia Boyce** has based her selection upon a particular work of art, playing with its title, its form and its meaning in making her additional choices. Amongst her choice of works is *West Indian* (1973) by Caribbean artist, Winston Branch from the Rugby Art Gallery and Museum collection. Meanwhile, **Rose Wylie** has focussed on the idea of 'leaving the door open', challenging the canon and shared systems of value that place artists on the outside of the art world.

Mat Collishaw takes a dark look at the shady world of violence and despair, his selection of works including *Ars longa, vita brevis* (1900) - 'art is long; life is short' - depicting an aging artist, by realist

painter Ralph Hedley in the collection of Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums. Finally, **Haroon Mirza** makes a commentary on choice itself by surrendering his own to the daily shifting algorithms used in Google searches, revelling in the notion of choice as predetermined by a machine that only recognises it in a mathematical and non-emotional way. Amongst his choices is *Girl Reading* (1933) by British painter Adrian Paul Allinson from the University of Hull Art Collection.

Alongside a diverse range of works, the exhibition will also include pieces from **Art Detective**, a digital network which invites experts and the general public to help Britain's galleries understand more about their artworks, helping to highlight unidentified works, sitters, places, events and unknown artists. During London Art Fair, visitors will be invited to discuss a number of mystery works in the hope of uncovering further exciting finds.

The exhibition's focus on 20th and 21st century artworks reflects London Art Fair's long-standing commitment to showcasing exceptional art from the 20th century to today. In 2018, London Art Fair returns for its 30th anniversary inviting collectors and visitors to discover works by renowned artists from around the globe.

First introduced in 2014 in order to showcase important regional collections; London Art Fair's annual Museum Partnership has seen collaborations with the Hepworth Wakefield, Pallant House Gallery, Jerwood Gallery and The Lightbox. Art UK is the first Museum Partner working almost exclusively in the digital space.

Sarah Monk, London Art Fair, Director, said: "This year is an important milestone for London Art Fair as we celebrate our 30th anniversary edition. We are therefore delighted to partner with Art UK as our official Museum Partner, who share our vision to provide unrivalled access to exceptional artwork. We are delighted to provide a platform for the nation's most extraordinary regional collections through this unique exhibition working with five remarkable artists."

Kathleen Soriano, Curator, said: *“Artists will always surprise and delight, and they have certainly risen to the challenge with this Art UK project for London Art Fair. Given a blank canvas, predictably, they have all headed in very different, quite wonderful directions. In doing so they have allowed us to create a highly personalised exhibition in five parts that will serve to highlight the diversity and wealth of great painting that sits in our museums and galleries across the UK.”*

Andrew Ellis, Art UK, Director, said: *“Art of the Nation: Five Artists Choose will see Art UK step out of the digital world and create our first ever real life exhibition. It’s a thrilling opportunity to showcase some of the riches from the nation’s art collection. We are deeply grateful to the five artists, the lending institutions, London Art Fair and our sponsors Masstone, Hiscox and RK Harrison for making this show possible.”*



‘Art of the Nation: Five Artists Choose’ is kindly supported by Gallery Support Group (Museum Partner Logistics), Masstone (Museum Partner Lighting), Hiscox, and RK Harrison.

GALLERY SUPPORT GROUP

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LONDON ART FAIR

17 - 21 January 2018

Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH

www.londonartfair.co.uk

Tickets: Standard ticket, £15.95 in advance. £23 on the door. Full ticket types and prices can be found [here](#)

For our latest news, follow @LondonArtFair on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) (#LAF18)

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Images

1| *West Indian*, 1973, oil on canvas by Winston Branch (b.1947), © the artist. Courtesy of Rugby Art Gallery and Museum Art Collections.

2| *Ars longa, vita brevis*, 1900, oil on canvas by Ralph Hedley (1848–1913). Courtesy of Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums.

About London Art Fair

Over the last thirty years, London Art Fair has given access to exceptional modern and contemporary art, as well as expert insight into the changing international market. The Fair is an established destination for both museum quality Modern British and contemporary work from leading global names.

Sitting alongside the main Fair will be specially curated contemporary spaces *Art Projects* and *Photo50*, featuring the next generation of artists and collectives. Taking place from 17-21 January 2018 (Preview 16 January), London Art Fair is an unmissable opening to the international art calendar.

About Art UK

Established in 2002, Art UK (previously known as the Public Catalogue Foundation) is a dynamic arts charity with a national and global reach. It is working to transform access to the UK's publicly owned art collection, much of which is not on display. It does this through digitising artworks and creating exciting opportunities for public interaction with art both online and offline.

Its website, www.artuk.org, is a free-to-access digital showcase for the UK's public art collections and vital digital infrastructure for the UK's cultural sector. Between 2003 and 2012 the charity digitised 212,000 oil paintings from 3,200 locations across the UK as part of its Oil Paintings digitisation project – a unique national achievement. Its award-winning Masterpieces in Schools and Art Detective initiatives provide online and offline opportunities for learning and participation and contribute to collection knowledge. Since September 2016, watercolours, drawings and artworks in other media, already digitised, have started to be progressively added to Art UK. The Art UK Shop is being piloted with a public launch planned for November 2017. Art UK is just starting a three-year project to make the UK the first country in the world to create a free-to-access online photographic showcase of its publicly owned sculpture.

About Art Detective

Art Detective comprises a free-to-use digital network built on top of Art UK's existing art object database and linked to the Art UK website; digital editors based at Art UK; academic support from History of Art staff at the University of Glasgow; an Expert Panel; a small team of Group Leaders; and volunteer contributors of specialist knowledge. Contributors include informed members of the public, academics, the art trade, museum curators, retired practitioners, artists and their estates.

Questions from collections or suggestions from members of the public are entered into Art Detective from the painting pages on Art UK. Anyone can follow public 'discussions' – contributions are sought from a variety of people. The Art Detective editor at Art UK filter out suggestions and questions that can be addressed without the need for public involvement.

About Kathleen Soriano

Kathleen Soriano is an independent curator, art historian and broadcaster, currently Chair of the Liverpool Biennial. With over 30 years experience in the art world she has been responsible for contemporary and historical exhibitions, collections and public programmes at the National Portrait Gallery, London and the Royal Academy of Arts, where she was Director of Exhibitions (2009-14), as well as at Compton Verney Art Gallery, where she was previously Director. She has lectured and written extensively in her field and her book *Madam and Eve* on women artists, is due for publication in April

2018. Her broadcast activities include the four series of *Portrait* and *Landscape Artist of the Year* for Sky Arts.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sonia Boyce (b. 1962, London, lives in London)

Sonia Boyce MBE is a British Afro-Caribbean artist who lives and works in London. She studied at Stourbridge College, West Midlands. Boyce's early work addressed issues of race and gender in the media and in day-to-day life. She expressed these themes through large pastel drawings and photographic collages. Boyce's significant exhibitions include *Five Black Women*, African Centre, London (1983); *Sonia Boyce: For you, only you*, Magdalen College, Oxford and subsequent UK venues (2007 – 2008); and *All the World's Futures*, 56th Venice Biennale, Arsenale and Giardini (2015).

She is represented in the permanent collections of Arts Council England and Tate Modern, London. In 2007, Boyce was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to the arts. She is currently Professor of Fine Arts at Middlesex University, London and Professor of Black Art and Design at University of the Arts London.

Mat Collishaw (b.1966, Nottingham, lives in London)

Mat Collishaw is a key figure in the important generation of British artists who emerged from Goldsmiths' College in the late 1980s. He participated in *Freeze* (1988) and since his first solo exhibition in 1990 has exhibited widely internationally. Recent solo exhibitions include *Mat Collishaw*, The New Art Gallery Walsall (2015), *In Camera*, Library of Birmingham (2015), *Black Mirror*, Galleria Borghese, Rome (2014), *This Is Not An Exit*, Blain|Southern, London (2013), Bass Museum of Art, Florida (2013); Pino Pascali Museum Foundation, Bari (2013); *Mat Collishaw: Afterimage*, Arter, Istanbul (2013) and *Magic Lantern* at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London (2010).

Recent group exhibitions include *Vanitas – Fashion and Art*, Bass Museum of Art, Miami (2014), *Back to Eden*, Museum of Biblical Art, New York (2014), *Victoriana*, The Guildhall Art Gallery, London (2013), *GLASSTRESS: White Light/White Heat: Contemporary Artists & Glass*, collateral Event of 55th Venice Biennale, Venice (2013); *Made in Britain*, Contemporary Art from the British Council Collection, Benaki Museum, Athens (2012); *Out of Focus: Photography*, Saatchi Gallery, London; *Otherworldly – Optical Delusions and Small Realities*, Museum of Arts and Design, New York (2012); and the 12th International Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul in 2011. Collishaw's work is in several public collections including Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania and Tate, London.

Haroon Mirza (b. 1977, London, lives in London)

Haroon Mirza has a BA in Painting from Winchester School of Art, an MA in Design Critical Practice and Theory from Goldsmiths College (2006) and an MA in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art and Design (2007). He has won international acclaim for installations that test the interplay and friction between sound and light waves and electric current. He devises kinetic sculptures, performances and immersive installations.

Recent solo exhibitions include: *LiFE*, Saint-Nazaire, France (2017); Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC, Canada (2017); Summerhall Festival 2016, Edinburgh, UK; *Pivô*, São Paulo, Brazil (2016); Nam June Paik Center, Seoul, South Korea (2015); *Matadero*, Madrid, Spain (2015); Museum Tinguely, Basel, Switzerland (2015); Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, Switzerland (2014); Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye, Poissy, France (2014); IMMA, Dublin, Ireland (2014); *Le Grand Café*, Saint-Nazaire, France (2014); The Hepworth, Wakefield, UK (2013); MIMA, Middlesbrough, UK (2013).

His work was included in the 7th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale, China (2012) and the 54th Venice Biennale, Italy (2011), where he was awarded the Silver Lion. He was awarded the Northern Art Prize in 2011, the DAIWA Foundation Art Prize in 2012, the Zurich Art Prize in 2013, the Nam June Paik Art Center Prize in 2014 and the Calder Art Prize in 2015.

Oscar Murillo (b.1986, Colombia, lives in London)

Murillo earned his B.F.A. in 2007 from the University of Westminster, London, followed by his M.F.A. in 2012 from the Royal College of Art, London. His large-scale paintings imply action, performance, and chaos, but are in fact methodically composed of rough-hewn, stitched canvases that often incorporate fragments of text as well as studio debris such as dirt and dust. His paintings, video works, and performances are tied to a notion of community stemming from the artist's cross-cultural ties to diverse cities and places in which he travels and works, and Colombia, where he was born.

He joined David Zwirner in 2013 and had his inaugural exhibition, titled *A Mercantile Novel*, at the gallery in New York the following year. *binary function* marked his first solo presentation at David Zwirner, London in 2015. On view September 14 through October 22, 2016, the gallery in New York presented *through patches of corn, wheat and mud*, a solo exhibition of the artist's new work.

Murillo's works and projects have been the subject of solo exhibitions at prominent institutions worldwide. Most recently, presentations were held in 2017 at the Yarat Contemporary Art Centre in Baku, Azerbaijan and in 2015 at the Museo de Arte de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá; Centro Cultural Daoíz y Velarde, Madrid (part of ArcoColombia 2015); and Artpace, San Antonio, Texas. Also in 2015, as part of Performa 15 in New York, Murillo presented *Lucky dip*, a series of performances and installations that took place over the course of one week at the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, an important historical site in downtown Manhattan. In 2014, Murillo's paintings, sculptures, and video works were presented at 40mcube in Rennes, France, organised as part of the 4th Les Ateliers de Rennes – Biennale d'art contemporain. In 2013, the South London Gallery hosted the artist's first major solo show in the United Kingdom. He recently debuted the *Frequencies* project with a large-scale installation of canvases as part of the *56th Venice Biennale: All the World's Futures* in 2015.

Rose Wylie (b.1934, Kent, lives in Kent)

Rose Wylie lives and works in Newnham, Kent, UK. She previously studied at Folkestone & Dover School of Art and Royal College of Art, London. In 2010 she was selected as single UK representative in the *Women To Watch* exhibition at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington DC, USA. Previous group exhibitions include Rose Wylie Evan Holloway at *The Approach*, London (2011) and *East International* (2004, selected by Neo Rauch and Gerd Harry Lybke).

Previous solo exhibitions include *Picture on the Wall* at Michael Janssen Gallery, Berlin (2011), *What with What* at Thomas Erben Gallery, New York (2010), and *Film Notes* at Union Gallery, London (2010). In 2011 she was a recipient of the Paul Hamlyn award.