

Press Release

Issued on 6 October 2015

## A major national initiative to safeguard the cultural heritage of British artists and artists' estates supported by Arts Council England

In the most ambitious public project for UK visual arts archive management to date, Arts Council England has **awarded £250,000** to **Art360**. This national pilot project will enable the digitisation of the archives of **100 leading modern and contemporary British artists** and offer expert and bespoke legacy consultancy to safeguard Britain's cultural heritage.

Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through **Arts Council England** and led by **DACS Foundation**, Art360 will bring together an important partnership of shared expertise between **DACS**, **The National Archives**, the **Art Fund** and **The Henry Moore Foundation**.

Over the course of three years, the pilot programme will work with 30-40 artists each year from the Modern British canon (1900 – 2000) and contemporary artists active between 2000 – 2014 who will be invited to participate in a major research project to explore how cultural heritage in the visual arts can be safeguarded for future generations. Artists will be offered a range of expert advice and technical support in developing sustainable systems to manage their legacies for the future.

The story of the project will be shared through the Art360 website and will include unique materials that are unearthed in the process such as selected documentation, drawings and images of their works of art, as well as filmed and recorded interviews and ephemera from the artists' careers.

This project will be supported with a series of regional events and workshops to celebrate and promote the notion of 'soft cultural heritage' and legacy planning support for artists and estates across the UK.

The Art360 project is particularly resonant at this time, with a number of important shifts in recent years that have disrupted the traditional model for art collection and preservation. With the acceleration of cultural and artistic trends, technology platforms and the global acquisition of works by British artists, the issue of legacy planning for artists is not being systemically addressed and cultural assets are being depleted more swiftly than ever before.

Peter Heslip, Director, Visual Arts, **Arts Council England**, said: "Arts Council England is delighted to invest in this scheme which draws together expertise from The National Archives and the Art Fund and a range of archive collections around the country. This initiative addresses the "ticking time bomb" of important artists' materials which are often fragile and poorly stored. The project will not only safeguard the materials but provide a new source of income for artists and their estates and create an important public legacy by making these works more accessible to the public."

Keir McGuinness, Chair of **DACS Foundation**, said: "This is a hugely significant investment which will contribute to re-mapping the history of British art for the benefit of present and future generations. This project will celebrate the UK's cultural heritage, promote best practice for artists for their own archiving and legacy planning, and make accessible new cultural content to the British public."

Clem Brohier, Chief Operating Officer at **The National Archives**, said: “The National Archives is delighted to be involved in this programme. Our involvement in Art360 will allow us to gather and share knowledge of artists’ archives for inspiration and research, and deliver relevant guidance to artists on how to preserve their work for the future.”

Stephen Deuchar, Director of the **Art Fund**, said: “We are excited to be collaborating with the DACS Foundation on Art360. Safeguarding artists’ legacies in perpetuity is an important and timely concern, and we are pleased to be involved in a project which is addressing these complex issues with subtlety and determination. Art360 promises to provide a fascinating and important resource for engaging with the work of contemporary artists in Britain.”

Godfrey Worsdale, Director of **The Henry Moore Foundation** said: “As an organisation very much concerned with the preservation and archiving of an artist's legacy, The Henry Moore Foundation is delighted to be able to support this enormously significant project with DACS Foundation and its partners. A key principle of the Foundation that Henry Moore established was that it should further public understanding of visual art and the Art360 initiative fulfils that ambition absolutely and in perpetuity.”

DACS Foundation was established to offer support to artists and artists’ beneficiaries helping to enable them to produce new work and exhibitions, protect their cultural legacy, and make their work more accessible to the public.

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## Notes for Editors

### About DACS Foundation

DACS Foundation promotes visual arts for the public benefit by making grants, providing education and training, organising exhibitions and carrying out vital research. The Foundation strives to relieve financial hardship among artists living or working in the United Kingdom by making grants of money for providing or paying for items, services or facilities. DACS Foundation is dedicated to the physical and intellectual preservation of the UK’s cultural heritage, making artistic works and archives accessible to today’s public and to future generations. The Foundation champions a new and encompassing perspective on the value of visual art and artists to society through public participation in education, exhibitions, publications and research opportunities.

[dacsfoundation.org.uk](http://dacsfoundation.org.uk)

### About DACS

Established by artists for artists in 1984, DACS is a not-for-profit organisation for visual artists’ rights management, collecting and distributing royalties to artists and their estates through initiatives: Payback, Artists’ Resale Right, Copyright Licensing and Artimage. [dacs.org.uk](http://dacs.org.uk)

### About Arts Council England

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people’s lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art

and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

### About the Art Fund

The Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. In the past five years the Art Fund has given £34 million to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections. The Art Fund also helps museums share their collections with wider audiences by supporting a range of tours and exhibitions, including ARTIST ROOMS and the 2013-18 Aspire tour of Tate's Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows by John Constable, and makes additional grants to support the training and professional development of curators.

The Art Fund is independently funded, with the core of its income provided by 117,000 members who receive the National Art Pass and enjoy free entry to over 230 museums, galleries and historic places across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibition. In addition to grant-giving, the Art Fund's support for museums includes the annual Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year, a publications programme and a range of digital platforms.

Find out more about the Art Fund and the National Art Pass at [www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org)  
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### About The National Archives

The National Archives is one of the world's most valuable resources for research. As the official archive and publisher for the UK government, and England and Wales they are the guardians of some of the UK's most iconic national documents, dating back over 1,000 years. Their role is to collect and secure the future of the government record, both digital and physical, to preserve it for generations to come, and to make it as accessible and available as possible.

The National Archives brings together the skills and specialisms needed to conserve some of the oldest historic documents as well as leading digital archive practices to manage and preserve government information past, present and future.

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/) [www.legislation.gov.uk/](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/)

### About The Henry Moore Foundation

The Henry Moore Foundation was founded by the artist in 1977 to encourage public appreciation of the visual arts, especially sculpture. Its main responsibilities are preserving Moore's legacy at his home in Hertfordshire and through exhibitions worldwide; funding exhibitions and research at the Henry Moore Institute in Leeds; and awarding grants to arts organisations in the UK and abroad.

[www.henry-moore.org/hmf](http://www.henry-moore.org/hmf)

The Henry Moore  
Foundation