

## PRESS RELEASE

### THE CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY AND FRIEZE LONDON ANNOUNCE A NEW PARTNERSHIP TO ACQUIRE SIGNIFICANT CONTEMPORARY WORK FOR REGIONAL MUSEUMS

The Contemporary Art Society and Frieze London have announced a partnership to purchase a major work at the 2016 edition of the fair for Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art.

The Contemporary Art Society's Collections Fund was set up in 2012 and is designed to support the acquisition of significant contemporary works for Contemporary Art Society museum members across the UK, drawing together the knowledge and experience of private collectors with that of museum curators.

The Collections Fund at Frieze currently stands at £50,000, including a match-funded gift, which was awarded to Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art after a competitive application process open to the Contemporary Art Society's 70 Museum Members across the UK.

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art describes itself as a 'useful museum', or 'Museum 3.0', an organisation that wishes to play a civic role, operating in the public realm through a focus on education, activism and making towards community building.

Caroline Douglas, Director, Contemporary Art Society, said: *"Our partnership with Frieze London this year is a wonderful opportunity to shine a spotlight on the fantastic work of regional museums. Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art operates in a unique cultural environment and the members of the Collections Fund committee were impressed by the museum's engagement with issues that resonate with the community it serves, such as migration and exile. We look forward to supporting the acquisition of a major work that is emblematic of the period of history we are living through."*

Alistair Hudson, Director, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, said: *"As the political climate continues to change, regional museums are increasingly adapting to find new ways to work with artists, develop collections and connect with their audiences. We have been evolving a new institutional model that responds to the urgent issues around us, becoming an active agent within society. Recently Middlesbrough has hit the headlines for having the highest number of asylum seekers in the country per head of population\*. But ours is a vibrant, complex, post-industrial region that was created by migrants and we view this story as an asset to inform and shape our culture and influence social change. Offering access to the most significant contemporary artists working today, this wonderful research and acquisition opportunity provided by the Contemporary Art Society's Collections Fund and Frieze allows us to strengthen our collection as a vital public resource and inject creativity into every aspect of ordinary life."*

Jo Stella-Sawicka, Artistic Director, Frieze Fairs (Europe, Middle East, Russia & Africa) said: *"We are delighted to partner with the Contemporary Art Society this year to support an inspirational institution from among the UK's vibrant regional gallery scene. This work with Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art builds on Frieze's legacy of helping museums build strong collections of contemporary art at an international level. We are proud to play a part in supporting new initiatives that ensure people across the country can access and enjoy world-class contemporary art."*

The work acquired through the Collections Fund at Frieze will be announced on 5 October at Frieze London.

\*J. Reed, 'Why does Middlesbrough have the most asylum seekers?', *BBC News Online*, 23 October 2015, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34597022> (accessed 6 June 2016).

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## **Notes to Editors:**

### **1. ABOUT THE COLLECTIONS FUND AT FRIEZE**

The Contemporary Art Society's Collections Fund was set up in 2012 and is designed to support the acquisition of significant contemporary works for Contemporary Art Society museum members across the UK. A key aim of the scheme is to draw together the knowledge, experience and expertise of private collectors with that of museum curators in a programme of research leading to an acquisition. The Collections Fund at Frieze is a new partnership for 2016 to acquire a major new work at the fair for Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art. Past acquisitions through the Collections Fund have included works by Simon Fujiwara for Leeds Art Gallery (2013); Ben Rivers for Royal Pavilion & Museum, Brighton & Hove, and Bristol Museum & Art Gallery (2014); and Hito Steyerl for GoMA, Glasgow (2015).

The Collections Fund at Frieze is co-chaired by The Lady Lupton, with Cathy Wills and Anna Yang. The committee includes: Nicola Blake, Hugo Brown, Theo Danjuma, Jill Hackel, Helen Janecek, Ken Rowe, and Paul Smith.

### **2. ABOUT CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY**

The Contemporary Art Society champions the collecting of outstanding contemporary art and craft in the UK. Since 1910 the charity has donated thousands of works by living artists to museums, from Picasso, Bacon, Hepworth and Moore in their day, through to the influential artists of our times. Sitting at the heart of cultural life in the UK, the Contemporary Art Society brokers philanthropic support for the benefit of museums and their audiences across the entire country. Their work ensures that the story of art continues to be told now and for future generations. [www.contemporaryartsociety.org](http://www.contemporaryartsociety.org)

### **3. ABOUT MIDDLESBROUGH INSTITUTE OF MODERN ART**

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, part of Teesside University, is moving forward with a vision of itself as a 'useful museum', or 'museum 3.0'. The 'useful museum' is a civic institution that promotes art as a tool for social change and is created by the sum of the actions of its users. The 'museum 3.0' establishes the gallery as a public site, beyond representation and participation and based on use value, with its meaning defined by its constituents.

### **4. ABOUT FRIEZE**

Frieze was founded in 1991 by Amanda Sharp, Matthew Slotover and Tom Gidley with the launch of *frieze* magazine, a leading magazine of contemporary art and culture. Sharp and Slotover

established Frieze London in 2003, one of the world's most influential contemporary art fairs which takes place each October in The Regent's Park, London. In 2012, Frieze launched Frieze New York taking place in May; and Frieze Masters, which coincides with Frieze London in October and is dedicated to art from ancient to modern. In 2016, Frieze launched Frieze Academy, a year-round programme of talks and courses.

The 14th edition of Frieze London will take place from 6–9 October 2016 with a Preview Day on 5 October 2016. This year's fair brings together more than 160 of the world's leading galleries, showcasing today's most significant artists across its main and curated sections, alongside the fair's celebrated non-profit programme of ambitious new artist commissions and talks. Frieze London is sponsored by Deutsche Bank for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

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**Donating great art to museums since 1910**

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