

**MAJOR NEW ART COMMISSION FOR CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL:
ANNOUNCEMENT OF SHORT-LIST OF ARTISTS
AND EXHIBITION OF PROPOSALS (17 NOVEMBER TO 14 DECEMBER 2009)**

Chichester Cathedral is delighted to announce the short-list of artists invited to compete for a highly prestigious contemporary art commission, to be installed in the central aerial space within the Cathedral. The resulting artwork will add to the Cathedral's international reputation as a bold patron of contemporary art within an ancient building.

The commission is timed to mark the centenary of Walter Hussey (1909-1985) who was Dean of Chichester from 1955 to 1977. Referred to by the art historian Kenneth Clark as 'the last great patron of art in the Church of England', Hussey commissioned many of the 20th century artworks for which the Cathedral is now famous, including a stained glass window by Marc Chagall and a high altar tapestry by John Piper. In addition to regular worshippers, some 200 000 people visit the Cathedral each year, and are able to see these and other works free of charge.

The brief for the new commission asks for a contemporary interpretation of the resurrected Christ and calls for the work to 'inspire a sense of contemplation and engage the imaginations of all who visit the Cathedral... an artwork that expresses new life, transformation and hope'. The chosen location for the new commission is the space above the Arundel screen at the front of the nave, with the intention that the final commissioned artwork will be visible from the West door, whilst still maintaining views through to the East end of the Cathedral.

An international short-list of artists has been selected by a panel chaired by Timothy Llewellyn (former Director of The Henry Moore Foundation) from a long-list curated by Vivien Lovell, Director of Modus Operandi. Modus Operandi has been appointed by the Cathedral Chapter to provide artistic direction and guide the commissioning process. Full panel membership is provided in the Notes to Editors.

The short-list of artists invited to propose designs are as follows:

Dorothy Cross, (b Cork, Ireland 1956)
Antony Gormley, (b London, 1950)
Ana Maria Pacheco, (b Brazil 1943)
Jaume Plensa, (b, Barcelona, Spain 1955)
Mark Wallinger. (b Chigwell, England, 1959)

Short biographies are detailed in the Notes to Editors.

Following individual briefings on site with Canon Dr Anthony Cane, the Cathedral Chancellor, Timothy Llewellyn and Vivien Lovell, the five artists have until late October to develop their creative concepts and present their proposals to the Panel.

Members of the public and the cathedral community will be invited to view the designs when they are exhibited in the Cathedral (17 November to 14 December, open each day from 7.15am to 6.00pm) prior to the announcement of the artist selected to carry out the commission. The primary funding for the artwork will be from private trusts and donors rather than existing Cathedral resources.

Quote from the Dean of Chichester, the Very Reverend Nicholas Frayling: 'This is a very significant project, in keeping with the imaginative artistic commissions of Dean Walter Hussey. I am delighted that five artists of such distinction wish to participate, and we await the result with keen anticipation'.

Quote from Tim Llewellyn: ‘Walter Hussey’s example has inspired the Dean and Chapter to commission for Chichester Cathedral a work on a great theme which will speak a contemporary visual language in a building of great antiquity. The numbers of visual artists of exceptional talent working in our time provided the selection panel with an extraordinary range of options. The artists we have chosen, widely diverse in style, background and method, have shown through their careers remarkable imagination, technical skill and the ability to make strong work in response to very different stimuli and circumstances. We look forward with excitement to their proposals.’

Quote from Vivien Lovell: ‘This is a hugely challenging commission, both in terms of the subject matter proposed and the context of the Cathedral’s world-class architecture. By inviting a diversity of artistic approaches by some of the world’s most distinguished artists, the Cathedral is re-affirming its reputation, led by Hussey, for commissioning highest quality contemporary art within its historic setting’.

Notes to Editors:

Interviews and images available, please contact Ruth Poyner at Chichester Cathedral on 01243 812482, 07973 253414, visitors@chichestercathedral.org.uk www.chichestercathedral.org.uk
For Modus Operandi Art Consultants please contact Vivien Lovell at on 0207 490 0009, mail@modusoperandi-art.com.

The Artists:

Dorothy Cross, (b Cork, Ireland 1956)

Dorothy Cross’ work encompasses an amalgam of found and constructed objects to convey complex subject matter. She graduated with a Masters of Fine Art from San Francisco Art Institute in 1982 and works in sculpture, film and installation. One of her most famous works, *The Ghost Ship*, was a luminous ship off Dublin Bay that paid homage to the light ships that once marked dangerous reefs on the Irish coast.

Antony Gormley, (b London, 1950)

Best known for *The Angel of the North*, former Turner Prize winning artist Antony Gormley uses the human body as his central motif, exploring the relationship between self and other. His work is represented in a considerable number of prestigious international collections and public places, including the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square where his live artwork *One & Other* is the current installation.

Ana Maria Pacheco, (b Brazil, 1943)

Ana Maria Pacheco has lived in the UK since 1973. Since then she has exhibited extensively internationally and became the first non-European to take up the appointment of Associate Artist at the National Gallery (1997-2000). She has work in many important national and international collections including The British Museum. In 2008 she had an important one-person show at the 61st Aldeburgh Festival of Music and the Arts.

Jaume Plensa, (b Barcelona, Spain 1955)

Based in Paris and Barcelona, Jaume Plensa is a well known international artist who has received numerous awards including an Honorary Doctorate from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (2005) and Chevalier des Arts et Des Lettres (1993). His most famous works are *Crown*

Fountain is in Millennium Park in Chicago, and a light sculpture on top of BBC Broadcasting House entitled *Breathing*. He has recently completed *Dream* for Channel 4's 'Big Art' considered by many a rival to Gormley's *Angel of the North*.

Mark Wallinger, (b Chigwell, England, 1959)

Turner Prize winning artist Mark Wallinger's work in various media explores the responsibilities of the individual and those of society. He represented Britain in the 49th Venice Biennale in 2001. His work *Ecce Homo* was the first installation on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, London. He has recently won the commission for the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project with a proposal for the biggest artwork in the country - *Horse*.

Dean Walter Hussey (1909– 1985): Hussey was ordained in 1932, and appointed as Vicar of St Matthew's, Northampton in 1937. It was in Northampton that he began to commission major contemporary artists, beginning with an anthem from Benjamin Britten and including a Madonna and Child by Henry Moore and Crucifixion by Graham Sutherland. Hussey's next post was Dean of Chichester Cathedral, which he held from 1955 until retirement in 1977. There his commissions included an altarpiece from Sutherland, Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, and works from Marc Chagall, John Piper, Cecil Collins, Ceri Richards and Geoffrey Clarke.

Hussey amassed an extraordinary private collection, which was the basis for the founding of Pallant House Gallery in Chichester (which won the Gulbenkian Prize in 2007).

The Selection Panel members:

Chairman: Timothy Llewellyn; Robert Pulley (Principal, West Dean College), Stefan van Raay (Director, Pallant House Gallery), Jean Jackson (Cathedral Restoration and Development Trust, Trustee), Matthew Saunders (Secretary to Ancient Monuments Society), Canon Dr Anthony Cane (Chancellor & Chapter Member), Canon Thomas Inman (Chapter Member), John Maine (Sculptor and Cathedrals Fabric Advisory Commission for England, Commissioner), Dr Colin Clark (Cathedral Council - Head Guide), Marguerite Saffery (Cathedral Community).

Modus Operandi: is a leading independent agency for commissioning art in relation to architecture and the public realm. It is directed by Vivien Lovell, who has over 30 years' experience of commissioning contemporary art. Modus Operandi aims to match the vision of artists with commissioners, audiences and places. It produces permanent and temporary commissions, collaborations and interventions, based on creative strategies and appropriate selection procedures. Recent projects include commissions for St Martin-in-the-Fields, BBC Broadcasting House, and the United Reformed Church, Regent Square, London.

www.modusoperandi-art.com