

**PRESS RELEASE: EMBARGOED UNTIL 2pm, 6 June 2022.**

**INIVA (INSTITUE OF INTERNATIONAL VISUAL ARTS) & TOWNER EASTBOURNE ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP FOR THIRD YEAR OF**
**FUTURE COLLECT PROJECT**

**iniva** is pleased to announce that it has selected **Towner Eastbourne** as its partner for the third year of ***Future Collect***. Future Collect is iniva’s national partnership programme designed to diversify who is collected by, who works at, and who goes to national museums and galleries, with the aim of better reflecting the breadth of contemporary British society.

The partnership will commission a major new work of art by an artist of African and/or Asian descent, born or based in Britain, for exhibition and acquisition at Towner Eastbourne in 2024, following an artist open call later this year. The project also supports significant curatorial development in the form of a curatorial traineeship. The exhibition will be supported with an education and engagement programme, and new research into Towner’s growing art collection. Previous Future Collect artists have included Jade Montserrat with curator Nikita Gill at Manchester Art Gallery; and Emii Alrai with curator Amber Li at The Hepworth Wakefield. There will be a sector conference in 2023 that reflects on the learning gained from all three years of the Future Collect programme.

The Curatorial Trainee, jointly appointed by iniva and Towner Eastbourne, will be predominantly based in Eastbourne where they will be given an outstanding opportunity to develop a range of skills needed for the curatorial workforce today. This includes assisting with selection of the commissioned artist; working alongside them to develop the new work and subsequent exhibition at the gallery; collection research, care and display; and audience engagement. The partnership also offers an opportunity for members of Towner Eastbourne’s curatorial team to spend time on secondment at **iniva**, utilising the unique resource of the Stuart Hall Library as a space for critical enquiry and creative exchange.

**Sepake Angiama, Artistic Director of iniva,** said:

"*We are thrilled to be working with the team at Towner Eastbourne on the final iteration of Future Collect.*

*The Towner Gallery in Eastbourne is a warm, unique, and dynamic cultural organisation that welcomes artists and the wider community through its doors. We are excited to be joining forces with Towner to transform the way in which institutions collect art. In the coming months we will be jointly recruiting a curatorial trainee and commissioning an artist who may have not been collected by a public institution before. We believe that our national collections should better reflect the contemporary society they serve.*”

**Joe Hill, Director of Towner Eastbourne**, said:

“*We are excited to be partnering on this vital initiative with iniva. A commitment to ensuring we tackle institutional inequality and racism is at the core of what we do and it is a priority for us work to diversify our Collection, in order to help better reflect the society we live in, and encourage people from all backgrounds to engage with the artworks we take care of.*

*We are therefore delighted to have been chosen for this opportunity to collaborate with and acquire work by an artist of African or Asian descent, and to also be able to help nurture the career of an exceptional, emerging, curator from a diverse background. We are excited to welcome both to Towner Eastbourne and to engage with the critical dialogue they will undoubtedly bring to the role.*”

The Curatorial Trainee post will be advertised widely from June and the selection process for the artist commission will begin in July.

**- ENDS -**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**ABOUT FUTURE COLLECT**
Future Collect was established in 2019 to mark iniva’s 25th anniversary with a legacy project aimed at transforming the national conversation around contemporary art collecting.

In the first year of the project, iniva partnered with Manchester Art Gallery to commission artist Jade Montserrat and support curatorial trainee Nikita Gill. The Hepworth Wakefield was the second organisation to take part in the programme supporting the commission of artist Emii Alrai and curatorial trainee Amber Li.

Future Collect is generously supported by Art Fund, Arts Council England and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

**ABOUT INIVA**
iniva (Institute of International Visual Arts) is a visual arts organisation dedicated to developing an artistic programme that reflects on the social and political impact of globalisation.

With the Stuart Hall Library acting as a critical and creative hub for their work, iniva collaborates with artists, curators, researchers and cultural producers to challenge conventional notions of diversity and difference. iniva engages a wide audience, particularly young people, in discourse and debate on issues surrounding the politics of race, class and gender.

iniva's programme supports artists at different stages in their careers, offering residencies, commissioning new work and promoting practice which enables artistic ambition and development. By cultivating innovative thinking, iniva is committed to disseminating research across a wide cultural spectrum and geographical network. Their ambition is to build a greater body of knowledge around each of the artists with whom they work to ensure the legacy of their practices for future generations of researchers and audiences.
www.iniva.org

**ABOUT TOWNER EASTBOURNE**
Collecting and exhibiting contemporary art for almost 100 years, Towner Eastbourne sits where the coast and the South Downs meet. Towner presents exhibitions of national and international importance for audiences in Eastbourne, the UK and beyond, showcasing the most exciting and creative developments in modern and contemporary art. Towner develops and supports artistic practice and collaborates with individuals, communities and organisations to deliver an inclusive, connected and accessible public programme of live events, film and learning. Towner’s collection of almost 5000 works is best known for its modern British art – including the largest and most significant body of work by Eric Ravilious (1903- 1942) – and a growing collection of international contemporary art.
<https://townereastbourne.org.uk> / @townergallery

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