

Hepworth Wakefield named Museum of the Year 2017

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Hepworth Wakefield Gallery

Congratulations to the team at the National Lottery-funded Hepworth Wakefield.

The Hepworth Wakefield has fought off tough competition to take the converted title of Museum of the Year 2017.

What the judges said

The competition judges praised the gallery for a year of “breathtaking” exhibitions, booming visitor numbers and the creation of an important award for contemporary sculpture.

The gallery celebrated its fifth birthday last year and saw a 21% rise in visitors following its National Lottery funded revamp. It launched a major new award for British sculpture and staged exhibitions by Martin Parr, Stanley Spencer and Anthea Hamilton.

The impact of the National Lottery

The Hepworth Wakefield, which takes home £100,000 prize money, joins fourteen previous winners of Museum of the Year (previously the Art Fund Prize and Gulbenkin Prize) that are National Lottery-funded. They include the Scottish National Gallery which won in 2004, the British Museum in 2011 and last year’s winner, the V&A Museum.

In fact, four of the five shortlisted contenders of this year’s prize were all National Lottery funded. The Lapworth Museum of Geology; the National centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art; and the Sir John Soane’s Museum were all in the running, and all receive £10,000 as runners-up.

What next?

To find out more about the Hepworth Wakefield and the Museum of the Year 2017 competition, visit the [Art Fund website](#) or use the hashtag [#MuseumOfTheYear](#).

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