

Released: Tuesday 18 November 2008

**Strictly Embargoed until: Wednesday 19 November 2008 at 10.30am**



NATIONAL  
GALLERIES OF  
SCOTLAND

NATIONAL  
HERITAGE  
MEMORIAL  
FUND



THE  
NATIONAL  
GALLERY

## **£10MILLION LIFELINE GRANTED FROM NATIONAL HERITAGE MEMORIAL FUND TO HELP SAVE TITIAN MASTERPIECE FOR THE NATION**

Today, the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF), the UK's fund of last resort for saving great heritage at risk, announced its decision to award £10million to The National Galleries of Scotland and the National Gallery to help acquire Titian's pre-eminent masterpiece, *Diana and Actaeon*.

The NHMF's contribution is the most significant so far to the campaign, bringing a welcome boost as the December deadline approaches.

The painting - which is currently on special loan to the National Gallery - has been offered to both Galleries on extremely favourable terms by the current owner, the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Sutherland.

Jenny Abramsky, Chair of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, said: "This is exactly what the National Heritage Memorial Fund was set up to do. We have moved quickly to show our support and hope this persuades others to dig deep to make this dream a reality. It was an extraordinary and challenging decision for us financially, but it's as important as ever to protect our enduring cultural heritage – those things of outstanding quality that enrich our national life.

"The NHMF is privileged to be able to take a really long-term view, and if our contribution helps the campaign to succeed, generations to come will be able to enjoy this truly extraordinary work of art."

"As well as recognising the outstanding quality and importance of '*Diana and Actaeon*', NHMF was particularly keen to help the Galleries secure the continued loan of the rest of the Bridgewater Collection – the greatest private collection of old masters on loan to a public gallery in the world. Staggered payments will enable the Fund to spread the costs and remain open to help save other heritage treasures."

John Leighton, Director-General, National Galleries of Scotland said: "This extremely generous and wholehearted support from the National Heritage Memorial Fund represents a major boost for the

campaign to acquire this superlative masterpiece for the national collections. In supporting this acquisition the Fund has also recognised fully the vital importance of keeping the Bridgewater Collection on view in Scotland and available for the inspiration and enjoyment of the present and future generations.”

Nicholas Penny, Director, National Gallery London said: “We are enormously grateful to the National Heritage Memorial Fund for this hugely generous offer. It represents a crucial endorsement of the value of acquiring the Titian and will inspire others to support the campaign. It brings us significantly closer to our target.”

The Galleries have until the end of this year to raise the £50m to acquire *Diana and Actaeon*. If this is successful, they have also been offered assurances which we hope will secure the loan of the rest of the Bridgewater collection for the next 21 years, and the galleries will be offered an option (which may be exercised up until 2012) to buy a second painting, *Diana and Callisto* for a similar amount. Both paintings will then go on a rotating display between London and Edinburgh, spending five years at a time in each location.

A grant of £1million was awarded by The Art Fund last month.

Due to popular demand, *Diana and Actaeon*'s visit to London will now be extended until Sunday 14 December 2008.

-ENDS-

#### **Notes to Editors:**

##### **The Collection**

The Bridgewater Collection has been on continuous public view in the National Gallery of Scotland since 1945 and the loan constitutes one of the greatest loans of old master pictures from a private collection to a public museum anywhere in the world. It immeasurably enriches the appeal and status of the National Galleries of Scotland as a centre of cultural excellence. The loan consists of twenty-seven paintings and one drawing by artists such as Raphael, Titian, Poussin and Rembrandt and it attracts visitors from all over the world.

##### **The National Heritage Memorial Fund**

- The National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) is a ‘fund of last resort’ set up to save the nation’s heritage in memory of those who gave their lives for this country. It currently receives £10million annual grant-in-aid from the government. [www.nhmf.org.uk](http://www.nhmf.org.uk)
- Four paintings were purchased by the National Galleries of Scotland from the Bridgewater Collection in 1984 with the help of an NHMF grant of £1,030,000.
- A £7.6million Heritage Lottery Fund award in 2003 helped secure Titian’s *Venus Anadyomene* for the NGS, also part of the Bridgewater Collection.
- NHMF has helped save many works of art for the nation, including:
  - Turner’s *The Blue Rigi*, saved last year by Tate with the help of a grant of £1.95million;
  - A portrait of John Donne acquired by The National Portrait Gallery in 2006 with a grant of £750,000;

- A portrait of *Elizabeth Gunning, Duchess of Hamilton* by Gavin Hamilton acquired by the Scottish National Portrait Gallery with a £200,000 grant from the NHMF.
- A portrait of *Sir Richard Arkwright* acquired by the Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston with a £132,000 grant.

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