

New Kettle's Yard unveiled in Cambridge

Jamie Fobert Architects design new development

Contemporary artists respond to legacy of Naum Gabo

Young people and community at the heart of the plans

After two years of development, the long-awaited opening of the New Kettle's Yard in Cambridge is announced today: Saturday 10 February 2018.

Kettle's Yard, part of the consortium of the University of Cambridge Museums, set in a landmark location in the centre of the City, has been subtly transformed by Jamie Fobert Architects. Carefully conceived to complement and enhance the qualities of the original House occupied by the creator of Kettle's Yard, Jim Ede (1895-1990), the development includes major new exhibition galleries, generous education spaces, a cafe and new welcome areas, placing Kettle's Yard back on the map as one of the best loved, most influential centres for contemporary and modern art outside London.

The redevelopment has largely been made possible by National Lottery players with £3.65m from Arts Council England and £2.32million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The opening exhibition, *Actions*. The image of the world can be different (inspired by a letter written by artist Naum Gabo, a close friend of Jim Ede) will feature iconic works and new commissions by thirty-eight international and British artists. Among these are John Akomfrah, Rana Begum, Joseph Beuys, Jeremy Deller, Edmund de Waal, Naum Gabo, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Anya Gallaccio, Idris Khan, Linder, Richard Long, Melanie Manchot, Julie Mehretu, Gustav Metzger, Oscar Murillo, Ben Nicholson, Cornelia Parker and Caroline Walker.

Kettle's Yard's renowned programmes for young people will be expanded, benefitting from the new state of the art learning spaces at the heart of the development. The new spaces, including the Clore Learning Studio will increase the capacity for learning activities by nearly 200%. A Research Space, open to all, will enable academic research and artists community engagement, utilising the collection and remarkable archive. Kettle's Yard has a unique history. Developed from the personal passion of curator and collector, Jim Ede, it began life in 1957 when he opened the doors of his house every afternoon for people to view his collection.

In the 1920s and 30s he had been a curator at the Tate Gallery in London and thanks to his friendships with artists he gathered a remarkable collection of works by Ben and Winifred Nicholson, Alfred Wallis, Christopher Wood, David Jones and Joan Miró, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Constantin Brancusi, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth amongst others.

In 1966, he gave the House and its contents to the University of Cambridge.

In 1970, three years before Jim and his wife Helen retired to Edinburgh, the House was extended and an exhibition gallery added, both to the design of the architects Sir Leslie Martin and David Owers. Ede's vision was for "A living place where works of art could be enjoyed...where young people could be at home unhampered by the greater austerity of the museum or public art gallery."

Now, between the 1970 galleries and the façade of Castle Street, two new galleries and an education suite have been configured, continuing the meandering journey that begins in the cottages and moves through Sir Leslie Martin and David Owers' extension. The present and future needs of Kettle's Yard are met with much-needed new contemporary gallery spaces and new spaces for art education. A new glass entrance area, framed in bronze has been inserted into the entry courtyard, which allows movement between the galleries, the House and a new café located where offices had once been.

With the completion of this new development by Jamie Fobert Architects, Kettle's Yard is enabled to reach its true potential as a world-class centre for engaging with modern and contemporary art in the 21st century.

Andrew Nairne, Director, Kettle's Yard, said today: "This is a proud moment for all of us. It's not just about encouraging people to come to a museum. We want to reinvent the notion of what a museum and gallery can be, and do. I believe Kettle's Yard, with its remarkable collection and vibrant connections with artists of today, can be a beacon for the next generation."

Jamie Fobert, architect, said: "Jim Ede in his wonderful book, Kettle's Yard, A Way of Life, said: "It starts from the cottage, with a couple of generously wide steps down ... and continues ... into the very large and comfortably-proportioned new building, which itself develops in easy and individual stages." I read this quote when we first started to work on Kettle's Yard and it has remained a guiding principle in our work. To add onto Leslie Martin and David Owers' beautiful 1970s extension has been both a privilege and a great responsibility. My hope is that our new spaces will feel like a seamless and easy continuation of the Kettle's Yard we all love."

Robyn Llewellyn, Head of HLF East of England, said: "Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players the display and care of Kettle's Yard's nationally important collections has been revitalised. What's really exciting about this project is the way they are engaging with so many people of all ages to truly bring to life the fascinating stories and heritage held here. It's fantastic to see the future of Kettle's Yard really taking shape and I look forward to celebrating the grand opening!"

www.kettlesyard.co.uk

For downloadable press image files:
<http://www.boltonquinn.com/web/press/kettles-yard/>

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Notes to Editors

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Jamie Fobert Architects

Since its inception in 1996, the practice has built a reputation for innovative and inspiring architecture in the arts sector, including designing exhibitions at Tate Modern and Tate Britain and creating spaces for Frieze Art Fair and the Garage Museum of Contemporary Culture in Moscow. They have recently completed a major extension at Tate St Ives and they are currently working on a new visitors centre for Charleston in East Sussex. Jamie Fobert Architects has won prestigious architectural awards including the Manser Medal, the RIBA and English Heritage award for a building in an historic context and the BD Individual House Architect of the Year Award.

University of Cambridge Museums

Kettles Yard is part of the consortium of the University of Cambridge Museums, which also includes the Fitzwilliam Museum, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Museum of Zoology, the Museum of Classical Archeology, Whipple Museum of History of Science, the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences, the Polar Museum and the Botanic Garden.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

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