

Press Release

Date of issue: 21 September 2010

## **MARK WALLINGER CREATES NEW WORK FOR CUTS CAMPAIGN**

A new work by Turner Prize-winning artist Mark Wallinger is released today as part of a campaign supported by over 100 leading British artists against the government's proposed funding cuts of the arts.

Mark Wallinger's work shows a copy of Turner's masterpiece, *The Fighting Temeraire*, 1839 by Joseph Mallord William Turner, in the collection of the National Gallery in London. A slash in the painting carries a notice "25% cut" and underneath the work a caption reads: "If 25% were slashed from arts funding the loss would be immeasurable."

Turner referred to *The Fighting Temeraire* as "his darling", refusing to ever sell it until he finally donated it to the National Gallery. When the nation was asked by the BBC to nominate the greatest painting on show in the UK's museums and galleries it came first with 25% of the votes.

The title of Mark Wallinger's new work is "Reckless". He explains: "I describe the cuts as a reckless adventure. In fact *temeraire* means reckless in French and by removing the obsolete ship from the scene I am rendering the painting wreckless."

Mark Wallinger was born in Chigwell in 1959 and lives and works in London. He studied at Chelsea School of Art, London (1978-81) and Goldsmiths' College, London (1983-85). Since the mid-1980s, his primary concern has been to establish a valid critical approach to the 'politics of representation and the representation of politics' and has often explored issues of the responsibilities of individuals and those of society in his work. He was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 1995 and represented Britain at the 49th Venice Biennale in 2001. His installation *State Britain*, recreating peace campaigner Brian Haw's Parliament Square protest, was an outstanding commission in Tate Britain Duveen series. He won the commission to design the Ebbsfleet Landmark in 2009.

Each week the work of a different artist, created in response to the campaign, will be released. The campaign was launched 10 September with a new video by David Shrigley and a campaign poster by Jeremy Deller, Scott King and William Morris.

Supporters of the artists' campaign are being asked to sign a petition which will be sent to the Culture Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. It points out that it has taken 50 years to create a vibrant arts culture in Britain that is the envy of the world and appeals to the government not to slash arts funding and risk destroying this long-term achievement and the social and economic benefits it brings to all.

The artists acknowledge that reasonable cuts and efficiencies are necessary but they fear that the 25% cuts being proposed will destroy much of what has been achieved and will have a particularly damaging impact on national and regional museums and their collections.

The campaign is being organised by the London branch of a national consortium of over 2,000 arts organisations and artists dedicated to working together and finding new ways to support the arts in the UK.

Full petition details on:

<http://www.savethearts.org.uk>

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### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **The Fighting Temeraire, 1839**

The 98-gun ship 'Temeraire' played a distinguished role in Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, after which she was known as the 'Fighting Temeraire'. The ship remained in service until 1838 when she was decommissioned and towed from Sheerness to Rotherhithe to be broken up. The painting was thought to represent the decline of Britain's naval power. The 'Temeraire' is shown travelling east, away from the sunset, even though Rotherhithe is west of Sheerness, but Turner's main concern was to evoke a sense of loss, rather than to give an exact recording of the event. The spectacularly colourful setting of the sun draws a parallel with the passing of the old warship. By contrast the new steam-powered tug is smaller and more prosaic. Turner was in his sixties when he painted 'The Fighting Temeraire'. It shows his mastery of painting techniques to suggest sea and sky. Paint laid on thickly is used to render the sun's rays striking the clouds. By contrast, the ship's rigging is meticulously painted.

#### **Turning Point Network**

Turning Point Network is a national consortium of artists, arts professionals and arts organisations in England dedicated to working together to find new ways to strengthen the visual arts, and to support the arts more broadly.

#### **List of Artists who have signed the petition:**

Faisal Abdullah

David Austen

Charles Avery

Fiona Banner

Jordan Baseman

Becky Beasley

Zarina Bhimji

Karla Black  
Martin Boyce  
Anthony Caro  
Jake & Dinos Chapman  
Adam Chodzko  
Steve Claydon  
Nathan Coley  
Matt Collishaw  
Nigel Cooke  
Tony Cragg  
Michael Craig-Martin  
Juan Cruz  
Ian Davenport  
Richard Deacon  
Tacita Dean  
Richard Deacon  
Jeremy Deller  
Willie Doherty  
Peter Doig  
Tracey Emin  
Nogah Engler  
Luke Fowler  
Anya Gallaccio  
Ryan Gander  
Ori Gerscht  
Liam Gillick  
Andy Goldsworthy  
Douglas Gordon  
Antony Gormley  
Brian Griffiths  
Sunil Gupta  
Maggi Hambling  
Richard Hamilton  
Mona Hatoum  
Susan Hiller  
Damien Hirst  
David Hockney  
Howard Hodgkin  
Runa Islam  
Alison Jackson  
Chantal Joffe  
Isaac Julien  
Alan Kane  
Anish Kapoor  
Michael Landy  
Mark Leckey  
Hew Locke  
Sarah Lucas  
Steve McQueen  
Malcolm Morley

Ron Mueck  
David Nash  
Rosalind Nashashibi  
Mike Nelson  
Tim Noble  
Humphrey Ocean  
Harold Offeh  
Julian Opie  
Cornelia Parker  
Peter Peri  
Grayson Perry  
Susan Philipsz  
Tom Phillips  
Marc Quinn  
Fiona Rae  
Peter Randall-Page  
Bridget Riley  
Conrad Shawcross  
Yinka Shonibare  
David Shrigley  
Bob and Roberta Smith  
Terry Smith  
Simon Starling  
Sam Taylor-Wood  
Jurgen Teller  
Wolfgang Tillmans  
Mark Titchner  
Keith Tyson  
Francis Upritchard  
Jessica Voorsanger  
Mark Wallinger  
Rebecca Warren  
Gillian Wearing  
Sue Webster  
Richard Wentworth  
Rachel Whiteread  
Cathy Wilkes  
Jane and Louise Wilson  
Bill Woodrow  
Richard Wright  
Carey Young  
Toby Ziegler