

Press Release

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YINKA SHONIBARE CREATES A WORK FOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST CUTS

A striking new work by Fourth Plinth artist Yinka Shonibare was unveiled today as part of the campaign supported by over 100 leading British artists against the government's proposed funding cuts of the arts.

The artist's work shows a slash across a piece of brightly coloured African fabric for which the artist has become well known with the caption: "Stop Cutting".

Yinka Shonibare MBE has become well known for work that explores issues of race and class through the media of painting, sculpture, photography and, most recently, film. He was a Turner prize nominee in 2004 and he was awarded an MBE, a title that he has added to his professional name. His commission for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square, *Nelson's Ship in a Bottle*, was installed in May this year and in June his major new public art work covering the gable end of a thirteen-storey tower block, commissioned by the South London Gallery to celebrate their expansion, was unveiled in Camberwell.

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. This was followed by a new work by Mark Wallinger.

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:

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 Abdulllah
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