



Imperial War Museums harnesses the legacy of 14-18 NOW, making £2 million available to artists and cultural organisations for new art commissions in 2021

Following the success of Academy Award winner Peter Jackson's [They Shall Not Grow Old](#), Imperial War Museums (IWM) announces its intention to make £2 million available for new art commissions in the wake of COVID-19. This major commissioning programme – known as the IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund – will ensure over 20 ambitious commissions are fully funded, bringing art to audiences across the UK in new and relevant ways.

The programme is funded by a share of the film's royalties, which was set aside to build upon the impact of 14-18 NOW, who commissioned artworks and experiences throughout the First World War centenary.

IWM will work in partnership with cultural organisations from across the country to co-commission new artworks from world-leading artists, funded by awards ranging between £20,000 to £250,000. Five organisations will be appointed directly by IWM as co-commissioning partners, with an additional 15 selected from the 525 members of IWM's War and Conflict [Subject Specialist Network](#). Inspired by the heritage of conflict, these co-commissions will be transformational to the communities they form a part of. Artworks will be displayed around the UK and, where possible, as part of IWM's future public programme.

By reinvesting the financial legacy of *They Shall Not Grow Old* back into the culture sector, IWM reinforces its commitment to commissioning contemporary artists to record the experiences of conflict – a role it has occupied since the First World War – while supporting partners across the UK as they recover from the wide-reaching impacts of COVID-19.

Diane Lees, Director-General of IWM, says: "They Shall Not Grow Old was co-commissioned by IWM and 14-18 NOW to mark the end of the First World War centenary in 2018. Over 300 million people watched the film following its worldwide release and millions more visited our award-winning galleries to learn about the impact of conflict and the First World War. It's incredible to think how much has changed in a few short years, with museums and galleries currently closed due to COVID-19. Financially, we know first-hand how challenging it's been for cultural organisations throughout this period, which makes us all the more delighted that this money was set aside in such a way that we've been able to support others."

Jenny Waldman, formerly Director of 14-18 NOW and now Director of Art Fund, says: "These commissions will continue the legacy of 14-18 NOW, which brought artists, communities and heritage together through extraordinary experiences. As the country recovers from the pandemic, the greatest challenge of our own lifetime, people around the UK can look forward to bold, exciting new creative opportunities. Peter Jackson's film *They Shall Not Grow Old*, which saw one of the world's greatest film directors working with the remarkable IWM archive, was the last commission in the 14-18 NOW programme. This fund is a tribute to his generosity and the enormous success of his film."

Co-commissioning partners and artists will be announced throughout 2021.

Ends

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Notes to editors

IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund

Thanks to the success of Peter Jackson's film *They Shall Not Grow Old*, co-commissioned by IWM and 14-18 NOW, IWM will fund and support a new programme of artist commissions that continues the vision and reach of 14-18 NOW, the UK arts programme for the First World War centenary.

The IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund will reinvest into the arts and heritage sector, forging new opportunities for artist engagement in public space and kick-starting cultural dialogue as we recover from the wide-reaching impacts of COVID-19. Creating new local, national and international partnerships, and working across multiple cultural disciplines, the IWM 14-18 NOW Legacy Fund will enable a range of commissions which reflect the scale and ambition of artistic practice that the 14-18 NOW commissions achieved, bringing art to audiences in new and relevant ways, and connecting people, places and experiences. The programme of art commissions will take place from 2021.

IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches which attract over 2.5 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that recently transformed with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across the iconic Atrium to mark the Centenary of the First World War; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

14-18 NOW

14-18 NOW was a programme of extraordinary arts experiences connecting people with the First World War, as part of the UK's official centenary commemorations between 2014 and 2018. It commissioned new work by leading contemporary artists across all art forms; the programme included over 420 artists from 40 countries, taking place in more than 220 locations across the UK. 35 million people experienced the programme, including 8 million children and young people. 14-18 NOW won many awards for its work.

14-18 NOW was supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England, by the DCMS, and with additional funding from The Backstage Trust, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Clore Duffield Foundation, British Council, NatWest and support from individuals.

They Shall Not Grow Old

They Shall Not Grow Old is directed by Peter Jackson, produced by Peter Jackson and Clare Olssen and edited by Jabez Olssen. Co-commissioned by 14-18 NOW and Imperial War Museums in association with the BBC, and commissioned by Tom McDonald Head of Commissioning, Natural History and Specialist Factual, for BBC television. Produced by WingNut Films and Executive Produced by House Productions. Supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Special thanks to Matthew & Sian Westerman with additional support from The Taylor Family Foundation, The Moondance Foundation, Welsh Government, Scottish Government, British Council, Tim & Sarah Bunting, Jacqueline & Richard Worswick and one anonymous donor.