

## Awards and winners

In 1973 National Heritage introduced the first annual awards for museums and galleries based in the UK. The top prize of £2000 and the trophy, *Moon Head*, by Henry Moore was awarded to a museum that the judges considered, within the limits of its budget, to have shown most enterprise in making general improvements both within the museum and in amenities for visitors. Sir Hugh Casson, President of the Royal Academy, was chairman of the judges for many years. The scheme ran for nearly three decades, and was succeeded in 2003 by the Gulbenkian Museum Prize, now sponsored by the Art Fund, and is the largest arts award in the UK. The Museum of the Year Award undoubtedly helped stimulate the dramatic improvements that took place in museum and gallery presentation in the last quarter of the 20th century. It also inspired the launching of many new museums and galleries; in 2017 English Heritage calculated that heritage tourism generated £16.4 billion in spending by domestic and international visitors.

### National Heritage Museum of the Year (1973-2000)

**1973**

Abbott Hall Museum of Lakeland Life and Industry, Kendal

**1974**

The National Motor Museum, Beaulieu

**1975**

The Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton

**1976**

The Gladstone Pottery Museum, Stoke-On-Trent

**1977**

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Telford

**1978**

Erddig Hall, Wrexham and The Museum of London

**1979**

Guernsey Museum & Art Gallery

**1980**

Natural History Museum, London

**1981**

The Hunday Farm Museum, Stocksfield

**1982**

The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent

**1983**

The Ulster Folk and Transport Museum

**1984**

Quarry Bank Mill, Styal

**1985**

The Burrell Collection, Glasgow

**1986**

Beamish, The North of England Open Air Museum

**1987**

Manchester Museum

**1988**

National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Bradford - now the National Science and Media Museum

**1989**

National Portrait Gallery at Bodleywyddan Castle

**1990**

Imperial War Museum, London and Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester

**1991**

The National Railway Museum, York

**1992**

Manx National Museum

**1993**

Jersey Museum and Art Gallery, Jersey Maritime Museum

**1994**

The Tower Museum, Derry

**1995**

Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton le Hole

**1996**

Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury and National Trust exhibition at Uppark, Near Petersfield

**1997**

Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury

**1998**

House of Manannan: Manx National Heritage, and Jersey Maritime Museum

**1999**

The River & Rowing Museum, Henley-on-Thames

**2000**

The British Museum, London



**Photos:** Top to bottom: National Motor Museum, Beaulieu; Beamish - The Living Museum of the North, County Durham; Great Laxey Wheel, Manx Heritage Museum; The River and Rowing Museum, Henley-on-Thames.

### Gulbenkian Prize (2003-2007)

**2003**

National Centre for Citizenship, Galleries of Justice, Nottingham

**2004**

Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh

**2005**

Big Pit National Coal Museum, Blaenavon, Torfaen

**2006**

SS Great Britain, Bristol

**2007**

Pallant House Gallery, Chichester

### Art Fund Prize (2008-2012)

**2008**

The Lightbox, Woking

**2009**

Wedgwood Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

**2010**

Ulster Museum, Belfast

**2011**

A History of the World in 100 Objects, British Museum, London

**2012**

Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter



Above: Wedgwood Museum, Stoke-on-Trent

### Art Fund Museum of the Year (2013-2020)

**2013**

William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow, London

**2014**

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield

**2015**

Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester

**2016**

Victoria and Albert Museum, London

**2017**

The Hepworth Wakefield

**2018**

Tate, St Ives, Cornwall

**2019**

St Fagans National Museum of History, Wales

**2020**

Joint winners:  
Aberdeen Art Gallery  
Gairloch Museum, Ross-shire  
Science Museum, London  
South London Gallery, Camberwell  
Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne.



**Above:** Exploring Space Gallery at the Science Museum, London.