

Press Information

Museum Folkwang

Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum in London, receives the International Folkwang Prize and donates the award of 25,000 Euros to *Folkwang Fellows*.

The prize, endowed by the Folkwang-Museumsverein, was awarded for the first time during the festive annual reception of the Folkwang-Museumsverein on 18 October, 2010.

The director of the British Museum, Neil MacGregor (b. 1946) accepted the International Folkwang Prize on 18 October in Essen. The laudation was held by Peter-Klaus Schuster, general director of the Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin from 1999 to 2008. With the prize, the Folkwang-Museumsverein honored his outstanding commitment to the promotion of the arts of diverse cultures and across borders. MacGregor will donate the prize money of 25,000 Euros to the British Museum's *International training programme*, so that young curators from Africa and Asia can work in London in order to later to develop their work in their homeland and the encourage an exchange of cultures. The prize money will allow three fellows to come to London. It is Mr. MacGregor's wish that participants in the program be known as *Folkwang Fellows*.

As part of the programme set up by Neil MacGregor, 24 curators are invited every year to spend six weeks in the summer in the most important British museums to get a better understanding of the work of their British colleagues, exhibition architects archeologists and museum pedagogues.

The close tie between research and promotion beyond borders is important for MacGregor, who has headed the British Museum since 2002 and who among the most successful museum directors today.

The International Folkwang Prize will, in the future, be awarded every two years in memory of Karl Ernst Osthaus, who founded the Museum Folkwang in 1902 and within a few years developed it into one of the most important European museums of modern art. Osthaus was convinced of art's power of social transformation and of museums' social responsibilities; he placed great emphasis on promoting and understanding art from all cultures and periods.

Press Contact: Museum Folkwang • i.V. Esra Aydin • T +49 201 8845 103, presse@museum-folkwang.essen.de, To download images please go to the press section at www.museum-folkwang.de