



BANK OF ENGLAND

News release

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Launch of public nominations period for the next £20 banknote

At an event at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London today, the Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, announced that the next £20 note will celebrate Britain's achievements in the visual arts and he launched a public nomination period to seek people's views as to who should be recognised on the next £20 note.

Members of the public will have two months to nominate people of historic significance from the visual arts including artists, sculptors, printmakers, designers, craftspeople, ceramicists, architects, fashion designers, photographers and filmmakers – whose work shaped British thought, innovation, leadership, values and society. The public can nominate characters from within the field of visual arts on the Bank's website.¹

The public nomination programme is the first to be held under the Bank's new character selection process which was put in place to ensure that the choice of characters for the Bank's notes commanded broad respect and legitimacy. In line with principles announced in December 2013, the field of visual arts was chosen by a new Banknote Character Advisory Committee. The Committee is chaired by Deputy Governor Ben Broadbent and comprises Chief Cashier Victoria Cleland and independent experts Sir David Cannadine, Baroness Lola Young of Hornsey and Sandy Nairne.

In conjunction with today's launch, the Governor has also announced the appointment of three further independent members to join the Committee, with expertise in the field of visual arts – John Akomfrah, Alice Rawsthorn, and Andrew Graham-Dixon who also spoke at the event. Following the two month nominations period, the full Committee, with input from public focus groups, will draw up a shortlist of characters from which the Governor will make the final choice. The selected character will be announced during spring 2016. The new £20 note will be introduced into circulation in 3-5 years.

¹ <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/Pages/characters/nexttwenty.aspx>

Launching the nominations period from the Victoria & Albert Museum, Mark Carney the Governor of the Bank of England said:

“I am delighted to be at the V&A today to launch the public nomination period for the next £20 character. There are a wealth of individuals within the field of visual arts whose work shaped British thought, innovation, leadership, values and society and who continue to inspire people today. I greatly look forward to hearing from the public who they would like to celebrate.

I am also pleased to welcome John Akomfrah, Alice Rawsthorn, and Andrew Graham-Dixon to the Committee. Their expertise across the field of visual arts will be invaluable when shortlisting the public’s nominations.”

Victoria Cleland, Chief Cashier and Director of Notes said:

“Characters have been on our banknotes since 1970 and they provide a fantastic opportunity to celebrate individuals from the past who have made significant contributions in a number of fields. The visual arts are clearly an area of outstanding British achievement and influence and I am very much looking forward over the next two months to meeting people across the UK to hear how they have been inspired by it.”

Tim Reeve, Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer, V&A said:

“Britain has long been a global leader in the creative industries and its dynamic arts sector contributes many billions annually to the UK economy, so it is very fitting that the new £20 note will celebrate the wealth of creative talent this country has produced. The V&A, as the museum which was founded not only to collect great works of art and design, but to use those collections as means of inspiring the designers and makers of today and of the future, is delighted to host the announcement this morning. I look forward to seeing who the public chooses to represent Britain’s achievements in the visual arts.”

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Notes to Editors

1. Governor Mark Carney announced the outcome of a review into the process and criteria for selecting characters to appear on its banknotes on 18 December 2013 as set out in a news release:
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Pages/news/2013/190.aspx>
2. The three full members of the Banknote Character Advisory Committee were announced on 29 January as set out in a news release:
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Documents/news/2015/026.pdf>
3. John Akomfrah is an English artist, writer, film director and screenwriter. He was one of the founders of the Black Audio Film Collective, which was active between 1982 and 1998, and which was dedicated towards examining issues of Black British identity through film and media. From 2001 to 2007 he served

as a Governor of the British Film Institute. From 2004 to 2013 he served as a governor of Film London. He was awarded an OBE in 2008 for services to the film industry.

4. Alice Rawsthorn writes about design in the International New York Times, which syndicates her columns worldwide. She is also a columnist for Frieze magazine, and the author of several books including "Hello World: Where Design Meets Life". A trustee of Arts Council England from 2006 to 2013, Alice is a trustee of the Whitechapel Gallery and the contemporary dance group Michael Clark Company, as well as chair of trustees at the Chisenhale Gallery. She was awarded an OBE in 2014 for services to design and the arts.
5. Andrew Graham-Dixon is a leading art critic and has presented a number of landmark series on art for the BBC. He has written a number of acclaimed books, on subjects ranging from medieval painting and sculpture to the art of the present. He has served on the Government Art Collection Committee, the Hayward Advisory Committee, and the board of the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead
6. The public are asked to nominate individuals from the visual arts comprising artists, sculptors, printmakers, designers, craftspeople, ceramicists, architects, fashion designers, photographers and filmmakers.
7. The Bank will issue the new £5 featuring Sir Winston Churchill in the second half of 2016 and the new £10 featuring Jane Austen around a year later. Both these banknotes will be printed on polymer; no decision has yet been taken as to whether the next £20 will be printed on polymer. Further information is in a news release issued on 18 December 2013:
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Pages/news/2013/189.aspx>
8. The Bank expects to announce the character(s) and unveil the concept design for the next £20 design in spring 2016. Issuance of the new banknote will be after the Jane Austen £10 has entered circulation.
9. Nominations can be made until 19 July 2015. To nominate please visit:
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/Pages/characters/nominationform.aspx>
10. The Bank will not represent living characters on its notes, with the exception of the Monarch. Banknotes are designed to be easy to authenticate and difficult to counterfeit and for this reason the Bank will choose only characters for which it is confident that it can include a recognisable and usable representation within a banknote design. The Bank will seek to avoid individuals who would be unduly divisive.
11. More information can be found on the Bank of England website:
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/characters> or by telephoning 020 7601 4878.