Press release: 15 May 2014

International artist to collaborate with University museums

Bedwyr Williams has been appointed as Artist in Residence at the University’s North West Cambridge Development, to work specifically with University of Cambridge Museums as part of the development’s public art programme.

Bedwyr Williams, whose work is characterised by his unique humour and gentle self-deprecation, will work with the University of Cambridge Museums to produce a work of art which will mine the depths of the rich University Museum collections whilst also engaging with the North West Cambridge Development. Williams’ work encompasses performance, sculpture, painting and video; drawing on life experiences, he offers a sharp critique of our everyday world whilst celebrating the overlooked. He considers community and inclusion, often conveyed with a comedic quirkiness. His practice, sometimes considered obscure, has led to much critical acclaim; he represented Wales at the Venice Biennale in 2005 and 2013, received the prestigious Paul Hamlyn Award for Artists in 2004 and has taken part in both group and solo exhibitions nationally and internationally.

Dr Liz Hide, University of Cambridge Museums Officer, said, “We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with Bedwyr, who will work with all eight University museums and Cambridge University Botanic Garden to deliver something really special for our visitors. As public-facing areas of the University, the museums are already working with local communities and we are keen to see these relationships grow further, particularly on the North West Cambridge Development. This is a fantastic opportunity for local people and complements the substantial support we receive from Arts Council England for our Connecting Collections programme. Our relationship with Bedwyr will supplement the broader range of public programming the University of Cambridge Museums already offers through working with artists and cultural organisations, including our forthcoming five week city-wide programme of events, Curating Cambridge.”

Three artists have been selected as Artists in Residence to work throughout the second year of the North West Cambridge Development Art Programme which is being delivered by the Contemporary Art Society and InSite Arts. Joining Williams will be Aid & Abet (who will work with the Department of Land Economy), and
Fernando García-Dory (working with the Centre for Sustainable Development in the Department of Engineering).

Bedwyr Williams commented that “Gaining access to one of Cambridge's museums would be great but being able to work with all eight is amazing.”

The Artist in Residence programme at the North West Cambridge Development will run throughout the development of the site, with three artists being appointed each year. The programme encourages collaborations between artists and University departments which will result in a range of public activities including exhibitions, performances, installations, talks and workshops.

For more information please visit www.cam.ac.uk/museums or www.nwcambridgeart.com

For further press enquiries please contact Verity Sanderson, Marketing and Press Coordinator, University of Cambridge Museums, on 07872 410663 or vcs25@cam.ac.uk

Notes to editors:

The Art Programme for the University’s North West Cambridge Development has been developed by the Contemporary Art Society and InSite Arts. Alongside permanent works of art on site they have set up an Artist Residency programme with three artists each year living on site and working in partnership with University Departments.

Further information is available on the website: www.nwcambridgeart.com

Curating Cambridge: our city, our stories, our stuff is five weeks of exhibitions, events, workshops, performances, talks, trails and hands-on fun bringing together culture and creativity across the city. Presented by the University of Cambridge Museums with the Festival of Ideas, cultural partners and community organisations, the celebration runs from 20 October – 23 November 2014.

Further information is available on the website: www.curatingcambridge.org.uk