

Media Release

COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE SUPPORTS NATIONAL GALLERY'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS EXHIBITION FOR FOURTH YEAR

Agrees new five-year partnership with the National Gallery

LONDON, 17 JUNE 2021: Columbia Threadneedle Investments is proud sponsor of the 'Take One Picture' programme and exhibition at the National Gallery in London which opens today and runs throughout the summer. Take One Picture is the National Gallery's countrywide scheme for primary schools which uses one painting from the Gallery's collection to inspire cross-curricular work in primary classrooms. The programme is also supported by Columbia Threadneedle's charitable entity, Columbia Threadneedle Foundation.

This is the fourth year that Columbia Threadneedle Investments has supported the programme and is also the start of a new five-year commitment.

Each year the National Gallery's Take One Picture programme invites primary schools nationwide to focus on one of its paintings and respond creatively to its themes and subject matter, historical context, or composition. The programme aims to put art at the centre of children's learning across the curriculum, inspiring a lifelong connection with artists' work, museums and galleries. This year the National Gallery has selected *The Battle of San Romano* (painted probably about 1438-40) by Paolo Uccello as the source of inspiration.

Ranging from armoured beasts and shining shields to plumed helmets and printed flowers, the exhibition will feature a range of works reflecting the richness of children's creative responses to Uccello's painting. One of the reasons for the choice of painting was the hope that it would inspire children to talk about conflict and resolution, encouraging them to think about valuable life skills including fortitude and resilience in the face of great difficulty. Many of the projects were created during lockdowns in the UK when activities were limited due to Covid-19 restrictions, echoing the battle with a global pandemic.

Alison Jefferis, Head of Corporate Affairs at Columbia Threadneedle Investments and Chair of Columbia Threadneedle Foundation said: "Take One Picture is a brilliant programme, and a truly innovative way to inspire a love of arts and creativity in children, whilst building on their broader primary school education. By encouraging children to analyse, interpret and debate what they see, it provides skills they will take with them throughout their education and into their working lives. What is particularly impressive about this year's exhibition is the way many of the artworks were created collaboratively during lockdown. Our commitment to support Take One Picture for a further five years reflects the value we see in this national programme."

Karen Eslea, Head of Learning and National Programmes at the National Gallery, said, "The children's wonderful responses show that when art is at the centre of learning it ignites curiosity and inspires children to research, to create and to develop important literacy and life skills. It also encourages them to connect to their communities and to inspire adults to engage with art and with other people."

The Take One Picture exhibition will run from Thursday 17 June 2021 until Sunday 12 September 2021 in the Sunley Room at the National Gallery in London. Admission is free.

Columbia Threadneedle Foundation invests in the community through partnerships that create positive social impact. The Foundation focuses on charities that use education, art and sport to engender lasting social change through programmes that build skills and confidence, challenge perspectives and broaden horizons.

For more information on Take One Picture visit: <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/take-one-picture>

****IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST****

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Notes to Editors

About Columbia Threadneedle Investments

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is a leading global asset manager that provides a broad range of actively managed investment strategies and solutions for individual, institutional and corporate clients around the world.

With more than 2000 people including over 450 investment professionals based in North America, Europe and Asia, we manage £409bn of assets across developed and emerging market equities, fixed income, asset allocation solutions and alternatives.

Our priority is the investment success of our clients. We know investors want strong and repeatable risk-adjusted returns and we aim to deliver this through an active and consistent investment approach that is team-based, risk-aware and performance-driven. Our investment teams around the world work together to uncover investment insights. By sharing knowledge across asset classes and geographies we generate richer perspectives on global, regional and local investment landscapes. The ability to exchange and debate investment ideas in a collaborative environment enriches our teams' investment processes to ensure the best insights are applied to portfolios. More importantly it results in better informed decisions for our clients.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global asset management group of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (NYSE:AMP), a leading US-based financial services provider. As part of Ameriprise, we are supported by a large and well-capitalised diversified financial services firm.

Source: Columbia Threadneedle Investments as at 31 March 2021

¹ Source: Ameriprise Financial Q1 2021 earnings release.

www.columbiathreadneedle.com

About Take One Picture

Launched in 1995, *Take One Picture* is the National Gallery's countrywide scheme for primary schools. Each year the Gallery focuses on one painting from the collection to inspire cross-curricular work in primary classrooms. After a one-day Continuing Professional Development (CPD) course at the Gallery, teachers are given a print of the focus painting, a soundscape and a variety of other resources to support classroom learning. The challenge is then for schools to use the image imaginatively, both as a stimulus for artwork, and to make links across the curriculum.

Each year a selection of work produced by schools based on the painting is shown at the National Gallery and published on the website. In order to be considered for the display, schools submit examples of how a whole class or school has used the picture to inspire projects that are child-led and cross-curricular and through which children have learnt a new process and involved members of the local community.

Further information about the programme, related CPD courses for teachers, and the annual *Take One Picture* exhibition at the National Gallery can be found at <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/take-one-picture>

This year's chosen painting is *The Battle of San Romano*, one of three battle scenes by Uccello showing the Florentine army's victory at San Romano in 1432, an important battle in a war over Florence's access to the port of Pisa. The others are now in the Louvre, Paris and the Uffizi, Florence. This large and busy painting shows a key moment in the war, with the commander Niccolò da Tolentino leading an attack at the small town of San Romano in Tuscany. The flowers and oranges show that it took place during high summer.

About Paolo Uccello

Paolo Uccello (about 1397 – 1475) combined an International Gothic figure style and love of decorative effects with a profound interest in linear perspective, characteristic of the Early Renaissance. Both these features of his art are shown particularly clearly in 'The Battle of San Romano'.

Uccello was trained under the sculptor Ghiberti from about 1407 to 1414 and worked in Venice as a designer of mosaics (1425-30). A pioneer of studies in linear perspective, he executed major fresco commissions utilising the technique to different ends. The equestrian 'Sir John Hawkwood' in Florence Cathedral, (1436), manipulates perspective for the sake of illusionism; 'The Flood' in the cloister of Santa Maria Novella, (1447) uses it to enhance expression, probably under the influence of Donatello. His domestic decorations, however, devalue these effects by stressing colour and surface pattern.

Important Information

The value of investments and any income is not guaranteed and can go down as well as up and may be affected by exchange rate fluctuations. This means that an investor may not get back the amount invested

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