

Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition 2016: Showcasing Cutting-Edge Practice

Plus, New for 2016, The Future Now Symposium – Over 40 High-Profile Speakers

A platform for innovation and originality, the [Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition](#) returns to **York St Mary's, from 14 April to 29 May**. To mark its 9th year, the award invites audiences to engage with some of today's key cultural, social, political, environmental and economic themes through a selection of shortlisted works in the following categories: Photographic & Digital Art; Three Dimensional Design & Sculpture; Painting & Drawing; and Video, Installation & Performance.

The 2016 edition is the **Award's largest exhibition to date** and welcomes practitioners from Austria, Canada, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, the UK and the USA. There are 10 shortlisted artists, with a further 90 longlisted pieces displayed on monitors in the gallery. Ranging from site-specific installations to new experiments with light and digital technologies, the showcase is an inspiring example of the calibre of works submitted to the Aesthetica Art Prize.

The shortlist includes 10 leading artists:

- Ellie Davies, whose work was included in The Royal Academy of Arts 2015 Summer Exhibition in London
- Manchester-based artist Liz West, recipient of an RBS Bursary Award 2015, Royal British Society of Sculptors, London
- Andrea Luka Zimmerman, artist and lecturer at Central St Martins, who was recently shortlisted for Film London's prestigious Jarman Award
- James Winter's modular installation *Spatial Light Constructs* responds to the architectural setting of York St Mary's
- Jennifer López Ayala uses up to 100,000 broken eggshells to create various shades of white – the result is a spatial painting
- Adriana Salazar's *Moving Plant #32* relocates fallen flora to an alien setting
- Henry Driver questions the definitions of virtual space in *Odyssey*
- The audio installation *TIME TO X* by David Hochgatterer transforms the fourth dimension, time, into a geometrical expanse
- Rachel Ara's *This Much I'm Worth* is a self-evaluating artwork sourced from the internet, questioning the values we place on both objects and people
- Gabriela Torres Ruiz's series *Silence* stems from a desire to generate new associations and conceptual realities by combining independent images in a way that resembles the arrangement of words in a poem

From the shortlist, two winners are selected – one for the Main Prize and one for the Student Prize. The Main Prize Winner receives £5,000 and the Student Prize winner is awarded £1,000, courtesy of [Hiscox](#). Both receive art supplies vouchers, courtesy of [Winsor & Newton](#) and a selection of books from [Prestel](#). The shortlisted artists are also featured in the April/ May edition of Aesthetica Magazine, and are published alongside the 90 longlisted artists in the publication *Future Now*, which accompanies the exhibition.

Cherie Federico, Aesthetica Art Prize Director, says: "We are thrilled with this year's selection, which offers a window onto cutting-edge practice from around the world. The works explore how we inhabit the earth and engage with some of today's most pressing topics, from ecological concerns to transitions in urbanisation and developments in technology. Many of the works are site-specific, inviting visitors to discover something truly unique and inspirational. Visiting the exhibition is a great way to engage with contemporary art and discover both global and individual narratives."

Visitors to the exhibition are invited to vote in the **People's Choice Award** for their winning artist, and will be entered into a free Prize Draw to win an Aesthetica Creative Package – including a one-year subscription, the *Aesthetica Art Prize Annual: Future Now* featuring the shortlist and longlist and the *Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual* – a compelling collection of poetry and short fiction.

Alongside the exhibition, there will also be a dynamic series of [talks](#), which are open to the public and free to attend. These present opportunities to hear directly from those working within the arts and cultural industry, enhancing the experience of the Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition. Speakers include Dr Christina Kolaiti, Photography Lecturer, and Desmond Brett, Fine Art Lecturer at **York St John University**; Dr Sam Lackey, Curator at **The Hepworth Wakefield**; Sarah Brown, Curator of Exhibitions at **Leeds Art Gallery**; Sophie Raikes, Assistant Curator at **Henry Moore Institute**; the Aesthetica Art Prize shortlisted artists, and the Aesthetica team. Talks take place at York St Mary's every Thursday from 14 April – 19 May, starting at 12.30pm. Free admission, no need to book.

Future Now Symposium – A New Two-Day Event at York St John University, 26-27 May

The Aesthetica Art Prize is delighted to announce the [Future Now Symposium](#) – a new two-day event that focuses on talent development and tackle's themes in today's current artistic climate through lectures, workshops and panel discussions from within the arts ecosystem and broader social context.

Topics include themes such as Talent Development and Responsibility; Breaking New Ground: Photography in the Digital Age; Funding and Commissions; The Permanence of Print; Contemporary Painting: Traversing Conventional Boundaries, and Artists' Film and the Moving Image.

There are over 40 high-profile speakers, including Alistair Payne, Head of Fine Art School and Painting Lecturer at **Glasgow School of Art**, Stephanie Bush, Programme and Production Manager at **Zabludowicz Collection**, Dani Burrows, Director of Strategy at **Delfina Foundation**, Sophie Hall, Director at **Flowers Gallery**, Olivier Richon, Photography Lecturer at **Royal College of Art**, John O'Shea, Senior Exhibitions Manager at **National Media Museum**, Whitney Hintz, Curator of the **Hiscox Collection**, and Rosalind Furness, Managing Editor of *Frieze* among many others.

For the Symposium, there are One Day and Two Day Passes available from just £24. Pass holders can attend up to 4 sessions a day, which must be booked in advance due to limited capacity. To book tickets and for more information, visit www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/symposium

Previous Success of Aesthetica Art Prize Artists

To date, the Aesthetica Art Prize has supported a wealth of established and emerging artists, both of which have progressed their careers and furthered their engagement within the art world since their exposure through the award:

- Chilean-born photographer and longlisted artist Carolina Redondo has since been selected for *In Search of the Miraculous* at Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange
- French photographer Noémie Goudal has had solo shows at FOAM in Amsterdam and The Photographers' Gallery in London
- Jason deCaires Taylor, creator of the first underwater sculpture park in Grenada for which he was longlisted, recently created an environmental installation on the banks of the River Thames

The award creates a platform to support talent development in 2016 not only through the exhibition, but also learning and networking opportunities through the talks and the new Symposium for artists and the public at large.

Images

Download images and a credits sheet [HERE](#) or contact Alexandra Beresford: 01904 629 137, alexandra@aestheticamagazine.com

Notes to Editors

1. Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition: York St Mary's, Castlegate, York, YO1 9RN. 14 April – 29 May, Wednesday to Sunday, 12pm-4pm. Free Admission. www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/exhibition-2016; www.yorkstmarys.org.uk; @AestheticaMag and facebook.com/aestheticamagazine
2. Free Lunchtime Talks: York St Mary's, Thursdays from 14 April – 19 May, from 12.30pm. Free admission. See the full list of talks here: www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/exhibition-2016
3. Future Now Symposium: York St John University, 26-27 May. Tickets can be ordered at www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/symposium
4. Hosted by Aesthetica Magazine, the Aesthetica Art Prize is a celebration of excellence in art from across the world. It offers both emerging and established artists the opportunity to showcase their work to a wider audience, and further their engagement with the international art world.
5. The Judging Panel enhances its position in the industry, bringing together specialists from leading cultural institutions. Judges: Clare Lilley, Director of Programme at Yorkshire Sculpture Park; John Keane, Artist, Aesthetica Art Prize Winner 2015; Whitney Hintz, Independent Advisor and Curator of the Hiscox Collection; Alex Newson, Senior Curator at Design Museum; Karin Askham, Dean of the School of Media, London College of Communication, University of the Arts London; Sophie Raikes, Assistant Curator (Collections) at the Henry Moore Institute; Dr Sam Lackey, Curator at The Hepworth Wakefield; Phillip Prodger, Head of Photographs at the National Portrait Gallery; Cherie Federico, Co-founder & Managing Director of Aesthetica. To see Judges' biographies, visit www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/judging-panel
6. The award attracts thousands of entries in a range of innovative media from locations as diverse as Australia, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA. Previous finalists include John Keane, former official British war artist, currently represented by Flowers Gallery in London; Julia Vogl, shortlisted for Saatchi Gallery and Channel 4's New Sensations; Ingrid Hu, former designer at the Lubetkin-winning Heatherwick Studio; Marcus Jansen, a leading modern expressionist; and Bernat Millet, shortlisted for National Portrait Gallery's Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize.
7. The Future Now Symposium focuses on talent development. It tackles themes in today's current artistic climate through lectures, workshops and panel discussions from within the arts ecosystem and broader social context. The Symposium creates a place for discussion and the exchange of ideas, offering support and talent development opportunities to artists.
8. Aesthetica Art Prize Sponsors and Partners: Hiscox, York St John University, Arts Council England, York Museums Trust, National Portrait Gallery, The Hepworth Wakefield, Design Museum, Henry Moore Institute, University of the Arts London, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Prestel, Winsor & Newton.
9. Global specialist insurer, Hiscox, has a 100 year heritage of insuring complex and unusual risks, as well as a passion for art that gets into everything we do; we insure it, we collect it and we promote it. We appreciate that every piece is as unique as the people who create, collect, buy and show it, and our understanding of the market means we are well positioned to help clients protect their collections. Find out more at www.hiscox.co.uk
10. Aesthetica Art Prize Shortlist 2016: Adriana Salazar, Gabriela Torres Ruiz, David Hochgatterer, Jennifer López Ayala, Andrea Luka Zimmerman, Henry Driver, Ellie Davies, James Winter, Liz West, Rachel Ara.
11. The Aesthetica Art Prize longlist includes 90 artists from such locations as Austria, Canada, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, the UK and the USA.
12. The *Aesthetica Art Prize Annual: Future Now* will be published to coincide with the exhibition. It offers the opportunity to explore 100 captivating projects from the 2016 shortlist and longlist. For only £7.95, it can be bought at York St Mary's and online: www.aestheticamagazine.com/shop
13. A series of critical essays are also featured in *Future Now*, offering contextualisation in mapping current trends in today's visual culture. We hear from John Keane, Artist, Main Prize Winner 2015; Sarah Coulson, Curator, Yorkshire Sculpture Park; Vanessa Corby, Senior Lecturer, Fine Art, York St John University, and Chris Littlewood, Photography Director, Flowers Gallery.
14. The Aesthetica Art Prize is now open for entries. Deadline closes 31 August 2016.