

AESTHETICA ART PRIZE

A Resounding Success for the Inaugural Edition of Future Now: The Aesthetica Art Prize Symposium

The **Future Now Symposium**, hosted by international art and culture publication *Aesthetica*, successfully provided a brand new opportunity for artists, industry professionals and audiences to connect and participate in discussions about today's artistic climate. The Symposium took place 26 – 27 May at York St John University.

Over 300 delegates attended the two-day event, keen to hear directly from the list of 40 speakers who were present to dispense industry tips and give essential insight into current opportunities. Speakers included key figures from some of the UK's leading art organisations, such as the Centre for Contemporary Art Glasgow, *Frieze*, *The Art Newspaper*, National Media Museum and Liverpool Biennial.

Session topics investigated a number of key issues today, including: Photography in the Digital Age; The Permanence of Print; Artists' Film and Moving Image; Contemporary Painting; Artist Progression Routes; Curating for the Future, and Talent Development and Responsibility.

Speakers also included independent practitioners from the UK and across the world, including the Aesthetica Art Prize 2016 shortlisted artists: Liz West, Rachel Ara, James Winter and David Hochgatterer. This year's finalists are working across a various media, including light and colour; architecture and installation, calling into question value systems and investigating the way we interact with contemporary art.

Cherie Federico, Director of the Symposium, says: "At Aesthetica we are passionate about championing and supporting innovation in contemporary art. Future Now provided an excellent place for critical engagement, and enabled the exchange of ideas and the development of new collaborations. It was great to see artists discovering new ways to further their careers through the portfolio reviews and networking sessions. We are thrilled with the first edition of the Symposium and are looking forward to the event in 2017."

There were also **Film Screenings** taking place in the evenings at 1331 in the boutique cinema, providing attendees with the opportunity to experience the shortlisted and longlisted artist film works in a cinema context. The film screening programme included Andrea Luka Zimmerman's shortlisted feature-length documentary *Estate: A Reverie*, Ruben van Leer's longlisted work *Symmetry* and a specially curated selection of films from the BAFTA Qualifying Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF), which returns to York 3-6 November 2016.

Images:

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

Notes to Editors

1. Future Now: The Aesthetica Art Prize Symposium took place at York St John University, De Grey Building, from 26 – 27 May 2016. www.aestheticamagazine.com/symposium
2. The event included lectures, panel discussions, networking opportunities, portfolio reviews and film screenings. There was also a Networking Party at 1331 on Thursday evening.
3. Over 40 speakers joined the Future Now Symposium, and audience members travelled from across UK and overseas to participate in the networking and discussion events.
4. Symposium supporters and sponsors include: York St John University, Arts Council England and Virgin Trains.
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Press Office: 0845 000 3333.
6. The Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition took place at York St Mary's, Castlegate, York, YO1 9RN from 14 April – 29 May, Wednesday to Sundays, 12pm-4pm. Free Admission. www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/exhibition-2016; [@AestheticaMag](http://www.yorkstmarys.org.uk) and facebook.com/aestheticamagazine
7. Free Lunchtime Talks also took place at York St Mary's on Thursdays from 14 April – 19 May. See the full list of talks here: www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/exhibition-2016
8. The Aesthetica Art Prize 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

9. The Aesthetica Art Prize is currently open for entries until 31 August 2016. Submissions: www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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
14. 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.
15. The *Aesthetica Art Prize Annual: Future Now* was published to coincide with the exhibition. It offers the opportunity to explore 100 captivating projects from the 2016 shortlist and longlist. It can be bought online: www.aestheticamagazine.com/shop
16. 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. The Aesthetica Art Prize is now open for entries. Deadline closes 31 August 2016.

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