

# FUTURE GREATS: AESTHETICA ART PRIZE 2018



**Showcasing the next generation of talent, 12 shortlisted artists push the boundaries of innovation, drawing upon social and political structures to question the values placed on the world around us.**

Exploring the wider effects of over-consumption, media stimulation and emotional disconnection, the artworks presented in the 2018 edition of the **Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition (18 May – 30 September, York Art Gallery)** call into question new modes of communication, offering reflection upon the era of post-truth, where human autonomy can be reduced to calculable, predictable patterns of behaviour.

**The shortlisted artists for 2018 include:** David Birkin (USA); Electra Lyhne-Gold (UK); Fabio Lattanzi Antinori (UK); Jiayu Liu (UK); Jukhee Kwon (Italy); Kenji Ouellet (Germany); Laura Woodward (Australia); Lisa Chang Lee (UK); Noémi Varga (UK); Peter Davis (UK); Reginald Van de Velde (Belgium); Shauna Frischkorn (USA).

A key concept in this year's shortlisted works is technology; **Jiayu Liu's *Ocean Wave*** questions how far digital worlds are encroaching upon organic landscapes. With environmental damage happening at an unprecedented rate, and global warming showing no signs of ending, Liu's work invites audiences to reflect upon our role as human beings and our emotional responses to the planet. Following the same theme is **Lisa Chang Lee's responsive installation *Laughter Project*** exaggerates and copies audiences' reactions to reflect upon the overwhelming desire to belong in today's society.

Considering the notion of human autonomy is **Fabio Lattanzi Antinori's *Fortune Tellers***, an interactive sculpture that charts 10 years of data from the Shanghai Stock Exchange. The piece considers how global financial systems control much of our lives. Similarly, **Electra Lyhne-Gold's *Lost in Translation*** is a video performance that utilises humour to usurp capitalism, undermining advertisement culture through mimicry and imitation.

Running concurrently with the opening of the exhibition is the **Future Now Symposium (17-18 May, York St John University)**, a dynamic two-day event that provides an imaginative platform for attendees to consider the arts ecosystem within a broader social, political and professional context. Holding talent development at its core, this two-day event is a hive of innovation and idea generation. **Symposium passes provide a free ticket into the Private View for the Aesthetica Art Prize, 17 May at York Art Gallery.**

**As Cherie Federico, Director, notes:** "Every year, this Prize becomes more ambitious and the works submitted and selected are becoming more dynamic, evoking a range of emotions from despair to hopefulness for a future world where society is more harmonious. Similarly, the events taking place at the Future Now Symposium across the two days are vital to stimulate discussion and generate new ideas in response to the current trends taking place."

A range of delegates from the UK's leading arts organisations are in attendance including **Tate, V&A, Frieze, BALTIC, Open Eye Gallery, PHOTOFAIRS, Royal College of Art, Serpentine, Thames & Hudson and *The Times*.**

-ENDS-

## Notes for Editors:

- **Request a Symposium Pass by emailing:** [hannah@aestheticamagazine.com](mailto:hannah@aestheticamagazine.com)
- **The Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition runs 18 May – 30 September at York Art Gallery.** It is a celebration of emerging and established artists from across the world, inviting audiences to be inspired by a wealth of ideas and perspectives. **Entries are open for the 2019 edition until 31 August.** [www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize)
- **The Aesthetica Future Now Symposium runs Thursday 17 and Friday 18 May at York St John University.** Attendees can either purchase a One Day or Two Day Pass. A One-Day pass entitles visitors to attend three sessions on either the Thursday or the Friday, whilst a Two-Day Pass permits access to three sessions each day. A complimentary lunch is included with all passes. Thursday or Two Day passes also include a free ticket to the Aesthetica Art Prize Private View. [www.aestheticamagazine.com/future-now-symposium-2018](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/future-now-symposium-2018)
- **The 2018 Aesthetica Art Prize Judging Panel includes:** Amira Gad, Exhibitions Curator at the Serpentine Galleries; Ayo Adeyinka, Director of TAFETA; Darren Pih, Exhibitions and Displays Curator, Tate Liverpool; Laurence Sillars, Head of Exhibitions at Henry Moore Institute, Maitreyi Maheshwari, Programme Director, Zabudowicz Collection; Mike Stubbs, Director, FACT, Reyahn King, Chief Executive, York Museums Trust; Steven Gartside, Curator, Holden Gallery and Cherie Federico, Director of Aesthetica.
- **The 2018 Shortlisted Artists include:** David Birkin; Electra Lyhne-Gold (UK); Fabio Lattanzi Antinori; Jiayu Liu; Jukhee Kwon; Kenji Ouellet; Laura Woodward; Lisa Chang Lee; Noémi Varga; Peter Davis; Reginald Van de Velde; Shauna Frischkorn (USA).
- **Press images** can be [downloaded here](#).
- **Art Prize and Future Now are hosted by Aesthetica:** [www.aestheticamagazine.com](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com)

Aesthetica



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