

AESTHETICA ART PRIZE

Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition Talks Programme at York Art Gallery

A Unique Insight into the Contemporary Art World

Visitors to the Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition are invited to further their appreciation of contemporary and enhance their experience of the show by joining a series of [industry-led talks](#) running throughout the exhibition. These are led by artists, curators and academics offering unique insight into the current art world and its role within a broader social context.

The talks span a variety of issues and themes, such as the relationship between creativity and wellbeing, art after the internet and curating for 21st century audiences. Join a tour of the works in this year's shortlist to find out ways of making and interpreting contemporary art; hear directly from some of the artists in the show to explore their practice in further detail; and uncover the opportunities and challenges presented by producing art in the digital age.

Cherie Federico, Director of Aesthetica says: "This year's talks programme sees an array of specialists leading thought-provoking discussions that will offer direct insight into current practices within the fields of producing, displaying and interpreting contemporary art. The speakers consider the works and themes within their broader social context, and will draw upon their significant expertise to create engaging and informed discussions."

The talks are open to York Art Gallery ticket holders and take place within the Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition space. At just 30 minutes' long and included within the York Art Gallery admission price, they are great ways to enhance a visit to the exhibition as part of a day out. Starting at 12:30, the talks last for approximately 30 minutes each. There is no need to book.

Aesthetica Art Prize Talks Programme:

1. **Friday 26 May**

Future Now: Meet The Aesthetica Art Prize Shortlist

The 2017 finalists offer insight into their practices, which utilise photography, painting sculpture and installation to address a range of contemporary themes from globalisation to technological advancement.

2. **Thursday 8 June**

Navigating the Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition

Griselda Goldsbrough leads an engaging tour around the Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition, identifying the various themes and techniques presented by the 2017 selection. The talk will highlight key modes of representation and interpretation used in the show.

3. **Thursday 15 June**

Engaging with the Arts: Creativity and Wellbeing

As part of the national initiative Creativity and Wellbeing Week 2017, Griselda Goldsbrough draws upon the works in this year's Art Prize to explore the different ways in which we can benefit from engaging with the arts throughout our lives.

4. **Thursday 29 June**

Sculpture Today: Creation and Interpretation

Artist and Lecturer in Sculpture at York St John University, Dr Joanna Sperryn-Jones discusses the state of contemporary sculpture and the process behind the creation of three-dimensional works. Addressing the pieces in the exhibition and her own creative process, she will consider audience participation in sculptural works.

5. **Thursday 13 July**

Art After the Internet

Dr Cadence Kinsey, Lecturer in Recent & Contemporary Art at the University of York, investigates the relationship between art and technology. She will identify the opportunities and challenges presented by the digital age and how artists are responding to technological advancements.

6. **Thursday 27 July**

Exhibition Practices: Curating for the 21st Century Audience

Jennifer Alexander, Curator of Art at York Art Gallery sheds light on exhibition practices and curating for the 21st century audience. Drawing upon the Art Prize, she will discuss the symbiotic relationship between the space and the exhibits and how the works respond to each other.

7. **Thursday 10 August**

Shortlisted Artists: Webb-Ellis Discuss Video Installation

Andrew and Caitlin Webb-Ellis work across film, installation and performance. They are storytellers, transforming personal experiences into multi-disciplinary environments that seek to address the universal. They discuss what it is to be human in these strange times and the shifting boundaries between the self and the other.

Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition, 26 May – 10 September, York Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, York YO1 7EW.

For more information on the exhibition and talks programme, visit www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/exhibition-2017

For opening times and admission details, visit www.yorkartgallery.org.uk

For quotes, images and interviews please contact Alexandra Beresford on 01904 629 137 or email alexandra@aestheticamagazine.com

Notes to Editors

1. Hosted by Aesthetica Magazine, the Aesthetica Art Prize is a celebration of excellence in art from across the world. Entries are open until 31 August 2017. www.aestheticamagazine.com/artprize [@AestheticaMag](https://www.facebook.com/aestheticamagazine)
2. The [Judging Panel](#) will be selecting the winners of the Main Prize and the Student Prize, announced at the Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition Private View on 25 May. The panel comprises influential art figures, including curators, directors and artists whose expertise span all media. They are: **Whitney Hintz**, Independent Advisor and Curator of the [Hiscox Collection](#); **Alistair Payne**, Head, School of Fine Art, [Glasgow School of Art](#); **Olivier**

Richon, Photography Lecturer, [Royal College of Art](#); **Reyahn King**, Chief Executive, [York Museums Trust](#); **Jonathan Watkins**, Director, [Ikon Gallery](#); **Susanna Brown**, Curator of Photographs, [V&A](#); **Rachel Ara**, [Artist](#), Aesthetica Art Prize Winner 2016; **Eleanor Clayton**, Curator, [The Hepworth Wakefield](#); **Cherie Federico**, Co-founder & Managing Director of [Aesthetica](#).

3. To see Judges' biographies, visit www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/judging-panel
4. 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.
5. **Sponsors and Partners:** Hiscox, York St John University, Virgin Trains, Arts Council England, V&A, The Hepworth Wakefield, Ikon, York Museums Trust, Prestel, Winsor & Newton.
6. **Hiscox** offers a range of [business insurance](#) policies to cover the liabilities and property risks of small businesses and consultants in the UK, as well as profession-specific policies that you can tailor to suit the risks that your business faces. Hiscox also provides specialist [insurance](#) cover for homes and their contents, valuables and collections. For more information, visit www.hiscox.co.uk
7. *Future Now, 100 Contemporary Artists* will be available to purchase at the exhibition and online: www.aestheticamagazine.com/shop