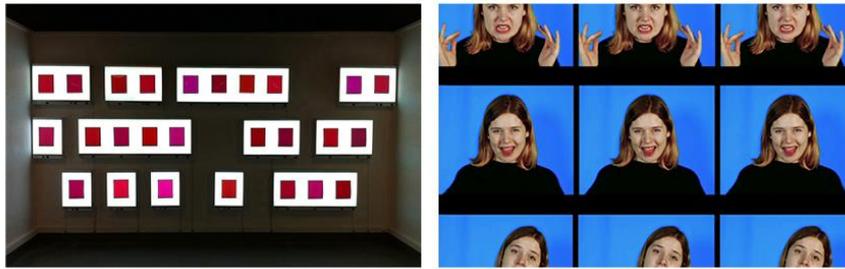


FUTURE GREATS: AESTHETICA ART PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED



The winners have been announced for the 2018 Aesthetica Art Prize, an international showcase of innovative and contemporary artworks from the next generation of talent.

Selected from a shortlist of 12 artists, the winners of the Aesthetica Art Prize have been announced with the launch of the 2018 exhibition at **York Art Gallery, (18 May – 30 September)**. **David Birkin (USA) has won the Main Prize** – awarded with has been awarded £5000 prize money courtesy of Winsor & Newton, and **Electra Lyhne-Gold (UK) has won the Emerging Prize**, receiving £1000.

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. Since its inception 11 years ago, the prize has supported a cornucopia of practitioners who have progressed their careers and furthered their involvement within the art world as a result of their exposure through the award. Finalists from previous years have been included in exhibitions at the **National Portrait Gallery, FOAM and The Photographers' Gallery**, as well as **winning awards from Magnum, nominations from BAFTA and exposure on Channel 4.**

This year's presentation examines the changing landscape of society. **Selected from 4,500 submissions, and a longlist of 100 artists**, the shortlisted works cover a wide range of topics that delve into the human condition, posing questions about an increasing level of mass consumption, over-stimulation and emotional disconnection. These include new modes of communication and the depleting nature of analogue, a rise in technologies that are mimicking nature and the after-effects from the war on terror.

Highlighting the notion of representation, **Main Prize winner David Birkin's *Profiles*** addresses the way that contemporary conflict is depicted. In collaboration with the NGO Iraq Body Count, the project includes photographic transparencies generated from identification numbers, questioning the values placed upon humanity. Addressing the relationship between spectacle and loss, at its core it focuses on the representation of civilian casualties from the Iraq War and the paucity of such images. Considering the theme of representation further, **Emerging Prize winner Electra Lyhne-Gold's *Lost in Translation***, sees the artist stage herself in surreal, fictional narratives, inhabiting invented personas or characters. Continuously exploring how the viewer interacts with the figure in the works, the artist utilises humor to usurp capitalism whilst undermining advertisement culture through mimicry and imitation.

As Cherie Federico, Director of Aesthetica, notes: "Every year, this Prize becomes more ambitious, and indeed, the works submitted and selected are increasingly dynamic: they evoke a range of emotions from despair to hopefulness for a future world where society is more harmonious. It is an honour to view so many innovative pieces that chronicle the times in which we live. I am delighted that, through the Aesthetica Art Prize, we can focus our efforts on talent development and contribute to global dialogues. Over 4,500 works were submitted this year, and the judging process was rigorous – decisions were based on skill, originality and technical ability. Curating the exhibition of shortlisted artists was hugely rewarding; during the process, there was a constant reminder of how the modern world is affecting daily life."

The 2018 Aesthetica Art Prize Judging Panel included 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, Zabludowicz Collection; Mike Stubbs, Director, FACT, Reyahn King, Chief Executive, York Museums Trust; Steven Gartside, Curator, Holden Gallery and Cherie Federico, Director of Aesthetica.

Notes for Editors:

- 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. The **Judging Panel** enhances its position in the industry, bringing together specialists from leading cultural institutions.
- **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
- **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, Zabłudowicz 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).
- *Aesthetica's* accompanying publication **Future Now: 100 Contemporary Artists** – which features artists' statements, images of the works and essays from leading art figures – is on sale as part of the exhibition. Furthermore, a series of Lunchtime Talks are on offer throughout the exhibition's run, developing ideas from the artworks and expanding upon wider conversations within the industry. Hear directly from leading artists, curators and academics.
- **Press images from the 2018 Aesthetica Art Prize can be downloaded here:** <http://aestheti.cc/uy3rn>
- **The Aesthetica Art Prize is hosted by Aesthetica Magazine:** www.aestheticamagazine.com

Aesthetica



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