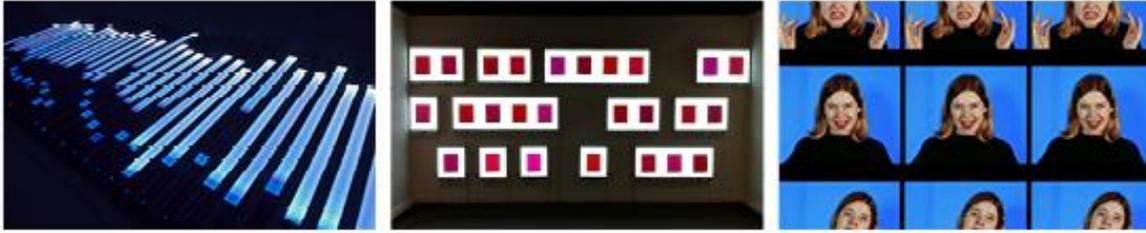


FUTURE GREATS: AESTHETICA ART PRIZE OPENS



Supporting the next generation of talent, the Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition opens to the public, showcasing the work of 12 contemporary artists pushing the boundaries of innovation.

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.

Having attracted thousands of entries, **this year's presentation includes pieces from 12 shortlisted artists**, new visionaries that hail from locations such as **Australia, Belgium, Italy, the UK and USA**. As well as displaying inspiring examples of sculpture, painting, photography, installation and video, works from the 2018 longlist are available to view across various monitors around the gallery; viewers are encouraged to be inspired by a diverse collection of concepts and techniques.

Each piece draws upon social and political structures to question the value that we place on the world around us and on ourselves. From global financial systems to technology that replicates nature, the diverse subject matter included in this year's presentation defines a new vocabulary for life in the 21st century.

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).

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.

Topics for 2018 include:

- The Value of Design
- Ethics of Content: Arts Journalism in the Digital Age
- How to Get Ahead as an Emerging Artist
- An Examination of Post-Truth
- Diversity in the Art World

A range of delegates from the UK's leading arts organisations are in attendance including **Tate, V&A, Frieze, VICE, i-D, It's Nice That, BALTIC, Open Eye Gallery, PHOTOFAIRS, Royal College of Art and Serpentine**.

As Cherie Federico, Director of Aesthetica, 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."

Notes for Editors:

- **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 Aesthetica Future Now Symposium runs Thursday 17 and Friday 18 May at York St John University.** Through panels, lectures, portfolio reviews and advice sessions, Future Now is a two-day event that provides an imaginative platform for attendees to consider the arts ecosystem within a broader social, political and professional context. 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](#).**
- **Both the Art Prize and Future Now are hosted by Aesthetica Magazine: www.aestheticamagazine.com**

