

FUTURE GREATS: AESTHETICA ART PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED



The winners have been announced for the 2019 Aesthetica Art Prize, an international showcase of innovative and contemporary artworks from the next generation of talent.

Selected from a shortlist of 18 artists, the winners were announced at the Private View of the 2019 Art Prize Exhibition at **York Art Gallery** last night. **Jenn Nkiru** (UK), was awarded the Main Prize, which included £5,000 prize money, and **Maryam Tafakory** (UK), won the Emerging Prize, receiving £1,000. Commendation awards were also presented to shortlisted artists **Ludivine Large-Bessette** for *Drop Out Bodies* (France) and to **Teppey Yamada** for *Apart and / or Together* (Japan).

Examining a range of themes from technology, urbanisation and digitisation to population growth, as well as ecological destruction and climate change, the artworks presented in the 2019 edition draw on both personal and universal narratives. The shortlisted works ask the question – in the age of globalisation, where culture is becoming homogenised and identity is fluid, what does this all mean for the individual?

Centred on the magic of Blackness in a realm where time and space are altered, ***Rebirth Is Necessary*** is the summation of filmmaker **Jenn Nkiru's** loaded feelings and questions about black people, the black experience and the idea of black universality. Created as a source of therapy and inspiration, it offers something that is visceral and soulful. The soundtrack features James Baldwin, Sun Ra, Chance The Rapper, as well as quoted material from Alice Coltrane, Audre Lorde, Kwame Nkrumah and more.

Interested in the contradictory images of women and how they are portrayed through religion, **Maryam Tafakory's *I Have Sinned a Rapturous Sin*** brings together fragments of Forugh Farrokhzad's poem *Sin*. With images of a male carder preparing cotton for a mattress, the film is set against religious clerics instructing women to suppress their sexual desires. Having lived within and outside of an Islamic identify, Tafakory offers a collage of visual and textual materials that, at times, contradict each other.

Hosted by the UK's leading art and culture publication, *Aesthetica Magazine*, the Prize is a celebration of excellence in art from across the world. Since its inception 12 years ago, the Prize has supported a wealth of practitioners both emerging and established, who have progressed their careers. Finalists have been included in exhibitions at the **National Portrait Gallery**, **FOAM** and **The Photographers' Gallery**, as well as **winning awards and gaining exposure from Magnum Photos, BAFTA, and Channel 4.**

Cherie Federico, Director of Aesthetica, notes: "Throughout the curation process there was a constant reminder of how the modern world is affecting our daily lives. I'm delighted that through the Prize, we can focus our efforts on global dialogues. The shortlisted works examine both the positives and negatives of the time in which we live."

The Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition runs 8 March - 14 July at York Art Gallery. The winning works are presented alongside the 18 shortlisted artists, as well as those longlisted for the 2019 Prize.

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Notes for Editors:

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- **The Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition runs 8 March – 14 July 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 2020 edition until 31 August.**
<http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/exhibition-2019/>
- **The 2019 Judging Panel included:** Cherie Federico, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Aesthetica; Alessandro Vincentelli, Curator of Exhibitions & Research at BALTIC; Dr. Beatrice Bertram, Senior Curator at York Art Gallery; En Liang Khong, News and Comment Editor, *Frieze Magazine*; Dr. Itandehui Jansen, Filmmaker & Research, Edinburgh College of Art; Mariana Pestana, Curator, V&A; Michelle Williams Gamaker, Fine Art Lecturer, Goldsmiths University; Mike Stubbs, Creative Producer Doncaster 20-22; Dr. Samantha Broadhead, Head of Research, Leeds Arts University; Thomas Dukes, Curator, Open Eye Gallery; Edmund Clark; David Birkin.
- **The 2019 Shortlisted Artists include:** Alec Von Bargaen (Italy); Nicolas Bernier (Canada); Ludivine Large-Bessette (France); Mark Bloomfield (UK); Sebastian Kite (UK); Yunhan Liu (China); Daniel Mullen (UK); Jenn Nkiru (UK); May Parlar (USA); María Molina Peiró (Netherlands); Rebecca Reeve (USA); Giulio Di Sturco (UK); Noriyuki Suzuki (Germany); Maryam Tafakory (UK); Jane and Louise Wilson (UK); Teppei Yamada (Japan); Sim Chi Yin (Singapore); Christiane Zschlommer (UK).
- **The Art Prize is hosted by Aesthetica Magazine:** www.aestheticamagazine.com
- **Press images can be [downloaded here.](#)**

