

PRESS RELEASE: UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 22:15, 03.09.08

Nina Murdoch wins the first £25,000 Threadneedle Figurative Prize

Artist Nina Murdoch, 38, has won the £25,000 Threadneedle Figurative Prize for her luminous study of a derelict corner of South London, *Untitled*, a work that transforms the mundane into something sublime. The Prize was awarded this evening by Lauren Laverne (host of BBC 2's *The Culture Show*), following a public vote held online and at the Mall Galleries.

The Threadneedle Figurative Prize is the largest art prize in the UK awarded by a public vote. Over the last two weeks, thousands of visitors to the Mall Galleries took this opportunity to vote for their choice of one of seven artists shortlisted by the selectors.

Nina Murdoch studied at the Slade School of Fine Art (1989 – 93) and the Royal Academy School (1993 – 96). She has been winning art awards since 1983 when she won 1st Prize in the National Gallery Children's Competition. She is currently working towards a solo show at Fine Art Society in Spring 2009.

Also announced at this evening's special Awards event was the winner of the £10,000 Federation of British Artists Selectors' Choice, awarded by the selectors to Tim Shaw for his sculpture *Tank on fire*, which was inspired by a 2005 photo image showing a British soldier in Iraq leaping to the ground from a burning Warrior vehicle.

Tim Shaw, 44, studied at Falmouth College of Art (1985 – 89) and is currently engaged in a series of work about conflict to be exhibited in the autumn.

The Threadneedle Figurative Prize is exclusively open to artists living or working in the UK, and has proved a massive hit with artists attracted by the potential to win up to £35,000 – which makes it the most valuable competition for a single work of art in the UK.





Nina Murdoch's painting *Untitled* and Tim Shaw's sculpture *Tank on fire*, together with all the other shortlisted works, can be seen at the Mall Galleries, The Mall, London SW1 (near Trafalgar Square) until 5pm on Saturday 6 September.

A low-resolution image of each work is attached. For print quality images go to www.threadneedlefigurativeprize.com/press.

Listings Information:

Threadneedle Figurative Prize
Mall Galleries
The Mall (near Trafalgar Square),
London SW1
Tel: 020 7930 6844
www.threadneedlefigurativeprize.com
www.mallgalleries.org.uk

Open

Until 6 September, daily 10am-5pm (including Saturdays and Sundays)
Open late until 9pm on Fridays
Closes at 5pm on final day

Admission

Free

Notes:

BuzzacottLLP, a leading firm of chartered accountants, has acted as independent adjudicator to oversee the voting process for the Threadneedle Figurative Prize.

To meet Vivian, the promoter and mascot for the Threadneedle Figurative Prize at the Mall Galleries, and to get an insight into his adventures, log onto www.lifeasvivian.blogspot.com. By day, Vivian works as a promoter and mascot for the Threadneedle Figurative Prize at the Mall Galleries. By night and in his free time, he is part of London's community of inanimate objects and figures.

The organisers and sponsors of the Threadneedle Figurative Prize have created a major new showcase for contemporary figurative art. Artists were encouraged to submit work on topical as well as traditional themes, in a variety of different media.

The five selectors included award-winning art critics Richard Cork and Brian Sewell, leading contemporary art dealer Angela Flowers, installation artist and sculptor Hew Locke and the art writer William Packer.

Threadneedle Investments is Principal Sponsor of the competition. Threadneedle is a global asset management company with £67.7 billion of assets under management for both private and institutional clients. Its expertise extends to all asset classes, from equities and bonds, to property and alternative investments. It has built a global reputation for strong and consistent long-term performance, a broad and complementary range of products, and superb customer service.



Further information about Threadneedle can be found at: www.threadneedle.com.

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The Mall Galleries are run by The Federation of British Artists, a registered charity established in 1961. The Galleries benefited from an extensive refurbishment in the summer of 2007 as a result of generous sponsorship by Threadneedle. Its modern and inviting space offers a perfect contemporary venue for the new show.

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