

THREADNEEDLE FIGURATIVE PRIZE

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INAUGURAL THREADNEEDLE FIGURATIVE PRIZE OFF TO FLYING START

- **£25,000 Threadneedle Figurative Prize is the largest art prize voted by the public in the UK**
- **Vote begins on 19th August and closes 12 noon on 3 September 2008: www.threadneedlefigurativeprize.com**

This major new art prize is off to a flying start with over 2,700 entries submitted to the 11 regional prize drop off points around the UK.

Lewis McNaught, Mall Galleries Director said "We have over 4,500 sq ft of gallery space, but we could barely get into the building when the submissions came in."

The 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. The public will vote for one of seven shortlisted artists to win the Threadneedle Figurative Prize which is worth £25,000, and there is an additional £10,000 Federation of British Artists Selectors' Choice, for which the winner of the Figurative Prize is also eligible.

Lewis McNaught, confessed "We were absolutely overwhelmed with the response, and our judging panel had some really tough choices to make when selecting the 71 works which make up the exhibition.

McNaught continued, "What is particularly exciting is that the award has attracted artists of all ages and backgrounds: they range from art college graduates to Royal Academicians. There were some robust discussions over individual pieces, but we've ended up with a very exciting shortlist which captures the essence of figurative art. We want as many people as possible to visit the exhibition and to vote for their choice of shortlisted artist to win the £25,000 Threadneedle Figurative Prize.

McNaught finished on a tantalising note "The selectors have now chosen which shortlisted piece will receive the £10,000 Federation of British Artists Selectors' Choice. However, as this won't be announced until 3 September it's going to be fascinating to see if the Selectors' choice reflects that of the voting public."



MALL GALLERIES

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The seven key shortlisted works include:

- **Paul Brandford's *The clothes show***, a vibrant portrait of Zimbabwe's leader, Robert Mugabe, shown decorated with ribbons and medals, standing between two henchmen;
- **Anthony Green's installation *The heaven and earth machine***, which employs the artist's late mother's dining room table to combine the potential of sculpture with painting;
- **Eloiza Mills' intricate portrait of *Hannah***, a miniature oil painting executed on copper, whose 'silent presence' evokes a Vermeer-like quality;
- **Nina Murdoch's** luminous study of a derelict corner of South London, ***Untitled***, a work that transforms the mundane into something sublime;
- **Tai-Shan Schierenberg's *Self-portrait as a man of clay*** that continues his experiments with new forms of portraiture and the fallibility or mortality of the artist;
- **Tim Shaw's *Tank on fire***, a sculpture inspired by a 2005 photo image showing a British soldier in Iraq leaping to the ground from a burning Warrior vehicle; and
- **Nicholas Charles Williams' study *Compassion postponed*** that examines the fluidity of compassion in contemporary society.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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

The winner of the £25,000 Threadneedle Figurative Prize will be awarded to the artist who receives the largest share of public votes cast at the exhibition or online (www.threadneedlefigurativeprize.com).

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.

All seven shortlisted works, plus the 64 other works, will be exhibited at the Mall Galleries, London, between 20 August and 6 September 2008. Voting commences on 19 August and closes at 12 noon on 3 September 2008. The winner will be announced at a special Awards dinner on the evening of 3 September, hosted by Lauren Laverne (BBC2's *The Culture Show*). The winner of the £10,000 Federation of British Artists Selectors' Choice will also be announced that evening.



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.

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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.

Arts & Business brings the commercial and cultural worlds together to deliver an unrivalled range of programmes, services and expertise to both sectors. As well as offering consultancy services and brokerage to business, A&B is an advocate for the arts, identifying and fostering emerging cultural talent and providing the necessary support for the arts to work effectively with business.

Listings Information:

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Top to bottom:
Anthony Green, *The heaven and earth machine*
Tai-Shan Schierenberg, *Self-portrait as a man of clay*
Paul Brandford, *The clothes show*

Top to bottom:
Eloiza Mills, *Hannah*
Nicholas Charles Williams, *Compassion postponed*
Tim Shaw, *Tank on fire*
Nina Murdoch, *Untitled*