

THE THREADNEEDLE PRIZE

for painting and sculpture

Mall Galleries, 17 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5BD 020 7930 6844
threadneedleprize@mallgalleries.com
www.threadneedleprize.com

Artists selected by Artists

The art works in this year's £25,000 Threadneedle Prize will be selected by a panel of five artists including Michael Leonard, Cathy Lomax, Jock McFadyen, last year's winner Nina Murdoch and Daphne Todd. They will be joined by Guest Selector Desmond Shawe-Taylor, Surveyor of The Queen's Pictures.

Approximately 60 works will be on display at the Mall Galleries in Central London from Wednesday 2nd to Saturday 19 September 2009, and will also be available to view at www.threadneedleprize.com, where members of the public will also be able to vote online for their choice. The winners will be announced on Monday 14 September 2009.

The empowerment of artists has always been part of the ethos of the Federation of British Artists (the organization which runs the Mall Galleries). The FBA Societies were all built on the idea of 'peer selection', and as critic David Lee says:

"Artists always know best!"

The Threadneedle Prize is a major showcase for contemporary figurative art, conceived by the Mall Galleries, and actively encouraged by their sponsor Threadneedle, after discussions with leading figurative artists. Last year the Prize was described by BBC Radio 4's Front Row programme as a

"rival to the Turner Prize...full of constant surprises".

In its first year, the competition and exhibition at the Mall Galleries attracted more than 2,700 entries – the third largest hand-in of any major UK art prize in 2008 and more than 7,200 people visited the exhibition, many casting their vote for the winning entry: Nina Murdoch's luminous urban landscape 'Untitled'.

This year, all the artists shortlisted to win the £25,000 Prize will each receive £1,000, and a new £5,000 prize, for the best 'emerging' artist (aged 18-28), will be awarded by the selectors. The potential for one young artist to win £30,000 in prize money makes the competition amongst the most valuable in today's art scene.

Brian Sewell, art critic at the Evening Standard, will be one of the guest panellists for a special debate on Thursday 3 September 2009 at 6pm.



MALL GALLERIES

threadneedle.

Notes to Editors

1. The competition is open to all artists aged 18 and over living or working in the UK. About 60 works, selected from a national open submission, will be exhibited in the Mall Galleries between Wednesday 2nd to Saturday 19 September 2009 (Press View: Tuesday 1 September 2009).

2. Seven works, nominated by the selectors, will be shortlisted to win the £25,000 Threadneedle Prize. The artist who receives the largest share of public votes, cast online and throughout the exhibition, wins the Prize. Works selected for the exhibition by artists between the ages of 18 and 28 are eligible to win the Emerging Artist Prize', worth £5,000, awarded by the selectors. The winner of both prizes will be announced, by Lauren Laverne, at a special Awards Ceremony at the Mall Galleries on the evening of 14 September 2009.

3. 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.

About Threadneedle

Threadneedle was founded in 1994. It actively manages £51bn* of assets providing investment solutions for pension schemes, insurers, private investors, corporations, mutual funds and affiliate group companies.

*US\$73bn, €52bn. Source: Threadneedle, as at 31.12.2008.

Threadneedle has investment expertise across equities, bonds, property and hedge funds with over 140 talented investment professionals all based in London. Threadneedle reaches customers in 16 countries, across four continents and has over 500 staff members in twelve locations: United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Hong Kong and Singapore. For more information, visit www.threadneedle.com

Threadneedle is the international investment platform and subsidiary for Ameriprise Financial, a leading US financial planning and services company with more than 12,000 financial advisors and registered representatives that provides solutions for clients' asset accumulation, income management and insurance protection needs. Ameriprise Financial was formerly known as the American Express Financial Corporation. It is an independent, publicly traded company (NYSE: AMP). For more information, visit www.ameriprise.com.

Listings Information:

The Threadneedle Prize for Painting and Sculpture

Mall Galleries

The Mall (near Trafalgar Square)

London SW1

Nearest Tube: Charing Cross

Tel: 020 7930 6844

www.threadneedleprize.com

www.mallgalleries.org.uk

Open 2 to 19 September 2009, 10am-5pm daily, and 10am-9pm every Friday during the exhibition

Private View Tuesday 1 September 2009

Admission £2.50, Concessions £1.50 (Free to Friends of the FBA, Art Fund members, Westminster Res-card holders and Under 16s).

For more information contact:

Lewis McNaught, Director of Mall Galleries
020 7968 0952
lewismcnaught@mallgalleries.com

Richard Fitzwilliams, Press Consultant
020 8455 7393 / 07939 602 749
richardfitzwilliams@hotmail.com

Emma Healey, Marketing & Communications Officer
020 7968 0955
press@mallgalleries.com

Jessica Lord, UK PR Manager, Threadneedle Asset Management
020 7464 5047
Jessica.Lord@threadneedle.co.uk

Alternatively log in to the press area which is now available on The Threadneedle Prize website for access to high-res press images.