

THE THREADNEEDLE PRIZE

for painting and sculpture

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THREADNEEDLE AWARDS ARTISTS

Threadneedle has committed a further £10,000 in 2010 to its sponsorship of leading art award The Threadneedle Prize against a backdrop of budget cuts across the arts. The new prize, the £10,000 Visitors' Choice, will be awarded in addition to the existing £25,000 Threadneedle Prize, one of the biggest prizes for a single work of art in the UK.

Simon Davies Threadneedle's Chairman said: "The enormous success of The Threadneedle Prize over the past two years has demonstrated the significant appetite, both within arts and the wider public, for a prize that supports living artists in the figurative and representational field.

"We have therefore increased our commitment to The Threadneedle Prize as we believe it is crucial that businesses encourage creativity and innovation. Indeed, debate and creativity are at the core of Threadneedle's investment philosophy and therefore we are keen to encourage similar innovation in figurative art."

£35,000 could be awarded to one artist

The Threadneedle Prize is a major showcase for contemporary figurative art, conceived by the Mall Galleries and actively supported by Threadneedle, after discussions with leading contemporary painters and sculptors. Selectors will award the winner of the £25,000 Threadneedle Prize based on a shortlist of seven works chosen by them which will be published at the end of June.

The new £10,000 Visitor's Choice will be awarded by the public to a work from the seven shortlisted by the selectors. If the public's choice coincides with the selectors' choice,

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one artist will win £35,000 – making The Threadneedle Prize potentially the most valuable art competition for a single work of art in the UK. Each of the runners-up will receive £1,000.

The winners will be announced at a celebrity awards event on the evening of Wednesday 15 September 2010.

Three Selectors:

This year three highly respected selectors will ‘curate’ a show at the Mall Galleries, London, drawing on work submitted through the open competition. **Xavier Bray**, Assistant Curator at the National Gallery and curator of the hugely successful *The Sacred Made Real* exhibition, **David Rayson**, Professor of Painting at the Royal College of Art, and **Michael Sandle RA**, whose sculpture, *Twentieth Century Memorial*, was exhibited in the Tate’s Duveen Gallery in 2008, are expected to attract a high quality of painting and sculpture entries to this year’s competition.

These new developments raise the bar for this year’s £25,000 Threadneedle Prize and build on the momentum established by the show over the last two years.

The object of The Threadneedle Prize is to encourage artists with real commitment and vision to submit work created especially for the competition. Last year the show attracted over 2,400 entries and attracted much critical acclaim:

“A triumph ... more pleasure and provocation than any Turner show of the past decade” (Financial Times)

“There are paintings here which make an unpredictable splash” (The Independent)

“What is certain is that the times are a changin’, and the Threadneedle has a part in that drama” (Financial Times)

There is still time for artists to register for this year’s show. Registration closes on 17 May (sculptors) or 1 June (painters). Full details are available online at www.threadneedleprize.com. Last year 93% of all registrations were made online.

The Threadneedle Prize for Painting and Sculpture

Mall Galleries

The Mall, London SW1

Nearest Tube: Charing Cross

Tel: 020 7930 6844

www.threadneedleprize.com

www.mallgalleries.org.uk

Open 2 to 18 September 2010, 10am-5pm daily, and 10am-9pm every Friday during the exhibition

Press view and Preview Party Wednesday 1 September 2010

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

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