

# THE THREADNEEDLE PRIZE

for painting and sculpture

## Press Release

### The £25,000 Threadneedle Prize 2010 shortlist is announced

The seven works of art shortlisted for this year's £25,000 Threadneedle Prize have been selected.

Three highly respected art experts have selected The Threadneedle Prize 2010 exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London, choosing 46 works from more than 2,100 entries submitted through open competition. The emphasis for this year's Prize is on producing a visually coherent exhibition from a collection of outstanding contemporary figurative paintings and sculptures. Selecting work which offers a fresh interpretation on the world around us, this collective approach takes the Prize in a new direction.

The selectors for this year's Prize are **Dr 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.

The winner of the £25,000 Threadneedle Prize has already been chosen by the selectors, and will be announced by Victoria Coren at a special Awards event on 15 September 2010. Each of the six runners-up will receive £1,000. The seven shortlisted artists are **Boyd and Evans, Patricia Cain, Paul Cummings, Thomas Doran, James Jessop, Stuart McCaffer** and **Caroline Walker**.

New for 2010 is the £10,000 prize for the Visitors Choice, which will be awarded by the general public visiting the exhibition. If the public vote coincides with the selectors' decision, one artist will win a total of £35,000, making The Threadneedle Prize potentially the most valuable art competition for a single work of art in the UK.

Now in its third year, and actively supported by the show's sponsor, Threadneedle, The Threadneedle Prize is a major showcase for new contemporary figurative art, described last year by the *Financial Times* as "A triumph ... [providing] more pleasure and provocation than any Turner show of the past decade."

The seven shortlisted works are:

- *Clee Hill 2009* (oil on canvas) by **Boyd and Evans**  
'Clee Hill near Ludlow is a popular stopping point for travellers... We make a detour whenever we're near... It seems to have something different to offer every time we go.'

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- *Building the Riverside Museum* (pastel) by **Patricia Cain**  
'My role was to capture the "experience of the moment" of building work in progress. The focus is not the finished building but an investigation of the beauty of construction.'
- *Road Side* (acrylic on canvas) by **Paul Cummings**  
'An anecdotal conscious anthropology where the get away journey offers a fleeting moment of a failed utopia.'
- *Car Boot Closing* (Oil on wood) by **Thomas Doran**  
'Never mind urban foxes – I give you car park elves. On a flat January day, I glimpsed this sub-Narnian scene through a wire fence and felt obliged to commemorate it.'
- *The Horrors of Tek 33* (oil and acrylic on canvas) by **James Jessop**  
'I have always wanted to paint a real New York train in 1980s style... Instead I started a series of paintings featuring trains with my own fantasy graffiti tales, in fictional 1980s scenarios.'
- *Den* (mixed media) by **Stuart McCaffer**  
'Most of my work is based on personal experiences, in the case of this piece the starting point is the transient time in life between child and adulthood.'
- *Frame, figure, frame, figure* (oil on canvas) by **Caroline Walker**  
'Located between reality and fiction, this work plays with temporalities and constructed narrative. Developed through collaboration with life models at different locations or "sets", it explores the relationship of women to the domestic.'

This year's shortlist and the 39 other selected works will be on display at the Mall Galleries in Central London from Thursday 2 to Saturday 18 September 2010, and will also be available to view from 1 September at <http://www.threadneedleprize.com>

## Events

### Who gets the money: arts funding in crisis?

Monday 13 September, 6-8pm

With major cuts in public services looming, are the visual arts facing a crisis? Evening Standard art critic Brian Sewell joins an outstanding panel of speakers, including Ekow Eshun, Director of the ICA, Clare O'Brien, Director of Development & Marketing at the Wallace Collection and Godfrey Worsdale, Director of the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, to debate where money for the visual arts should be targeted. Book online at [www.threadneedleprize.com](http://www.threadneedleprize.com) or call 020 7930 6844 for tickets. Admission £5 (concessions £2.50, including FBA Friends, students and over 60s).

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## Critics' view

Wednesday 8 September, 1-2pm

A new and unique event: art critic Matthew Collings, historian and broadcaster Bettany Hughes, journalist and BBC presenter Jeremy Paxman and journalist and Channel 4 presenter Jon Snow each choose one work of art from the exhibition and explain why they like it. *Admission free with entry to the exhibition.*

## 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](http://www.threadneedleprize.com)

[www.mallgalleries.org.uk](http://www.mallgalleries.org.uk)

**Open** 2-18 September 2010, 10am-5pm daily.

Preview Party and Press View: 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).

## For more information and images contact:

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Alternatively log in to the press area which is now available on [www.threadneedleprize.com/press](http://www.threadneedleprize.com/press) for access to high-res press images.

## Notes

Founded in 1994, Threadneedle is an international asset management firm with £64bn\* of assets under management. Based in the City of London, the company's exceptional investment team work together sharing ideas, debating new thinking and challenging consensus opinion to deliver outstanding investment performance spanning all major asset classes from equities and bonds to property and alternative investments. For more information, visit [www.threadneedle.com](http://www.threadneedle.com)

\*Source: Threadneedle as at 31 March 2010.

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