

# THE THREADNEEDLE PRIZE

for painting and sculpture

## Press Release

### The Threadneedle Prize exhibition opens

The Threadneedle Prize 2010 sets out to celebrate outstanding new works of figurative art, but also seeks to present a coherent exhibition that comments on the world we live in.

Working alongside fellow selectors **David Rayson** (Professor of Painting at the Royal College of Art) and **Michael Sandle RA** (Fellow of the Royal British Society of Sculptors), **Dr Xavier Bray** (Assistant Curator at the National Gallery) comments on how the selectors were interested in artists who possessed a "strong instinctive quality" and a "unique way of looking and interpreting the world around us".

The three selectors have chosen just 46 works out of more than 2,100 submissions, producing a highly selective and cohesive exhibition. The winner of the £25,000 Threadneedle Prize has already been selected from a shortlist of seven works. Visitors to the exhibition can also vote for their favourite work from this shortlist. The artist who receives the most votes will win the £10,000 Visitors' Choice award. Both prizewinners will be announced by Victoria Coren at a special Awards dinner at the Mall Galleries on 15 September 2010.

Many of the works selected for the exhibition share a common theme. An overwhelming number of the works on show depict our changing urban landscape whilst several artists explore visual trickery through their work:

- **Darren Coffield (a.k.a. Darcoff)** and **Oliver Jones** produce uncanny portraits that make the viewer question the proportions of the face and the reliability of the portrait painter.
- In **Garry Martin's** 'It's A Bloomin' Marble!', a marble sculpture of a balloon takes on the weightlessness of its shape, defying the material it is made of.
- **Howard Gardener** and **Valerie Jolly** comment on the ephemeral quality of human engineering and the technological age, creating compulsively accurate yet delicate sculptures out of paper.

Other artists exploit the mediums of painting and sculpture to produce uncanny effects, forcing the viewer to reconsider his/her preconceptions of representational works of art:

- In paintings by both **Aleksandra Jarosz Laszlo** and **Ethan Pollock**, subtle figures jump on furniture or copulate, invisible to the casual viewer and available only to those who choose to interrogate the work further.

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- **Jarik Jongman** illustrates how figurative painting can transcend the limits of photography, as fantastical elements become embedded in the canvas. In 'Phenomena (1)', dust sparkles in an empty room, suggesting human particles evaporating out of a space they once inhabited.
- Domestic objects and settings take on a fantastical quality as in **Roland Hicks's** 'The Duchess', where a loaf of bread personifies a prim lady, and as **Louise Foliott** transforms a plastic holdall into a larger-than-life entity, forcing the viewer to confront the original function and potential connotations of their subject matter.

All 46 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> (Ends.)

## 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 and **Clare O'Brien**, Director of Development & Marketing at the Wallace Collection, 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).*

### 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).

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## For more information and images contact:

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## About Threadneedle

Threadneedle was founded in 1994. It actively manages £59,7bn\* of assets providing investment solutions for pension schemes, insurers, private investors, corporations, mutual funds and affiliate group companies. Threadneedle has investment expertise across equities, bonds, property and hedge funds with over 140 talented investment professionals. As a truly international asset manager, Threadneedle reaches customers in over 80 countries and its distribution reaches across four continents.

Threadneedle is delighted to be a major supporter of The Threadneedle Prize and the Mall Galleries. As a leading international investment manager, Threadneedle promotes creative thinking and rigorous debate. We believe constructive argument promotes deeper thinking and fresh ideas, and can identify value where others may overlook it. The Threadneedle Prize does the same.

\* (US\$89,4bn, €73bn). Source: Threadneedle, as at 30.06.10.

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