Jerwood Drawing Prize 2017: Call for Entries

Celebrating the excellence of contemporary drawing in the UK

Artists are invited to submit entries for the Jerwood Drawing Prize 2017, the largest and longest running annual open exhibition for drawing in the UK.

The Jerwood Drawing Prize is led by founding Director Professor Anita Taylor at Bath Spa University and supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation through its national programme Jerwood Visual Arts. Selected from original art works, the Jerwood Drawing Prize has established a reputation for its commitment to championing excellence and promoting and celebrating the breadth of contemporary drawing practice within the UK. This open exhibition is a platform for drawing practitioners to showcase their work alongside other leading contemporary artists in the field, and provides those selected with the opportunity to help promote a wider understanding of drawing for future generations.

The Jerwood Drawing Prize is open to all artists who are based in the UK to submit their drawings. Up to 70 drawings will be selected for the exhibition as part of the Jerwood Visual Arts programme at Jerwood Space, London, from 13 September – 22 October 2017, before touring to venues across the UK.

The 2017 selectors are Dr David Dibosa, writer, researcher and Reader in Museology at the University of the Arts London, Helen Legg, Director of Spike Island and Michael Simpson, artist. They will create an exhibition that explores and celebrates the excellence and range of current drawing practice in the UK. The prizes, which will be awarded at a private ceremony on 12 September 2017, are a First Prize of £8,000, Second Prize of £5,000 and two Student Awards of £2,000 each.

Online registration for artists entering the Jerwood Drawing Prize 2017 will close at 5pm on 28 June 2017. Once registered, artists can submit their works through one of the regional collection centres.

The project was founded in 1994 as the Rexel Derwent Open Drawing Exhibition and was known from 1996 until 2000 as the Cheltenham Open Drawing Exhibition, until Jerwood Charitable Foundation became the principal benefactor in 2001.

Following 17 significant and successful years of support, Jerwood Charitable Foundation and Bath Spa University have announced that 2017 will be Jerwood Charitable Foundation’s final year as the key partner.
and funder for the Jerwood Drawing Prize. The exhibition project will continue to be led and developed by Professor Anita Taylor at Bath Spa University. The visual arts in the UK has benefited enormously from the prestige of the Jerwood Drawing Prize. It has championed the careers of many emerging and established artists and this legacy will continue as the project moves forward into a new phase with new supporters.

Deadline for online registration: Wednesday 28 June 2017, 5pm.

For further details and to register online please visit: jerwoodvisualarts.org

For all enquiries please contact project managers, Parker Harris:
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Email: jdp@parkerharris.co.uk
Twitter/Instagram: #JDP17 @JerwoodJVA

Selector biographies

Dr David Dibosa trained as a curator after receiving his first degree from Girton College, University of Cambridge. He was awarded his PhD in Art History from Goldsmiths College, University of London. During the 1990s, he curated public art projects. He is currently Course Leader for MA Curating and Collections at Chelsea College of Arts. He is also a Researcher in University of the Arts London’s Research Centre for Transnational Art, Identity and Nation (TrAIN).

Helen Legg was previously Curator at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, where she worked for 5 years on exhibitions and offsite projects as well as the development of Ikon Eastside, a second gallery based in a former factory building in Digbeth. In 2010, she was appointed Director of Spike Island, an international centre for the development of contemporary art and design, based in Bristol. She sat on the selection panel for the Paul Hamlyn Artist’s Awards in 2013 and latterly for the Turner Prize and the CAS Annual Award in 2014. She is Chair of Visual Arts South West and an advisor for the Bristol Cultural Development Partnership.

Michael Simpson studied at Bournemouth College of Art (1958-60) and Royal College of Art, London (1960-63). He now lives and works in Wiltshire, UK, making large scale paintings in ongoing series that repeat and rework a number of key elements. Rooted in a fascination with fifteenth century Venetian and early Flemish painting, and inflected by the formal restraint and reduced palette of Minimalism, Simpson has developed a distinctive, darkly comedic artistic vocabulary with which to create works that move beyond their subject matter to question the nature of painting itself. His forthcoming solo exhibition will open at Blain Southern, Berlin in September 2017.

Notes to editors

The Jerwood Drawing Prize project is led by founding Director, Professor Anita Taylor, Executive Dean of Bath School of Art & Design at Bath Spa University. It is supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation, through its national programme supporting visual arts practice, Jerwood Visual Arts. The project was founded in 1994 as the Rexel Derwent Open Drawing Exhibition and was known from 1996-2000 as the Cheltenham Open Drawing Exhibition until the Jerwood Charitable Foundation became the principal benefactor in 2001. Previous supporters include Westland Nurseries, The Summerfield Charitable Trust, CHK Charities and the
Rootstein Hopkins Foundation, and the 10th anniversary special exhibition Drawing Breath was supported by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Henry Moore Foundation and Hong Kong Land. The project celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014 with the exhibition Drawn Together at Jerwood Gallery in Hastings. A publication celebrating the legacy of the annual drawing exhibition will be published by Wunderkammer Press in 2019/20 and will be informed by an evaluation process being undertaken in 2017.

Since 2001, Jerwood Charitable Foundation has contributed £941,430 to the project, supporting almost 1,000 Jerwood Drawing Prize artists to date. Since 2002, it has also hosted the annual exhibition as part of its Jerwood Visual Arts programme.

**Jerwood Visual Arts** is a national programme supporting visual arts practice, through which Jerwood Charitable Foundation works with early career artists to commission and present new work. Artist opportunities run throughout the year alongside a programme of related exhibitions, events and commissioned writing taking place online, in London and across the UK. [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)

**Jerwood Charitable Foundation** is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. [www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org)

**Bath School of Art & Design** at Bath Spa University has a long and distinguished history. The Bath School of Art was founded in the 1850s and has been nurturing the talent of artists and designers ever since. With a rich history and beautiful settings, the University is a leading educational institution for creativity, culture and enterprise. Professor Anita Taylor, Director of the Jerwood Drawing Prize project and Drawing Projects UK, became the Dean of Bath School of Art & Design in June 2013 where the Jerwood Drawing Prize project is now hosted. She is also an Adjunct Professor of the University of Sydney affiliated to Sydney College of the Arts. [www.bathspa.ac.uk/art-and-design/](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/art-and-design/)