

# JERWOOD painting prize

2003

## **JERWOOD PAINTING PRIZE 2003**

7 May – 18 June 2003

**SUZANNE HOLTOM , JOHN HOYLAND, SHANI RHYS JAMES, MARC VAUX, ALISON WATT, JOHN WONNACOTT**

Norbert Lynton, Art historian, and 2003 Judge, viewing the short listed artists works said "A few items stand out at once as major achievements; they feel like drops of rain in a dry season"

A short list representing such a broad variety of approaches to painting exemplifies the richness and importance of a discipline which, far from being marginalised, is thriving in the contemporary climate. The short list, equally composed of men and women, includes figurative and non-figurative works, with artists employing such diverse methods as John Hoyland's 'Shoot-outs' with acrylic paint, Alison Watt's consummate skills with oils, and Marc Vaux's nitro cellulose and acrylic on MDF.

The highly esteemed judging panel, Norbert Lynton, David Jaffe, Duncan Robinson, Martin Gayford and Griff Rhys Jones have drawn on their collective experience to undertake the first stage of their selection process, made from over 400 artists amongst which were some of our most significant British painters. The panel will be presented with the formidable further task of selecting a winner from the 6 short listed artists in May.

The Jerwood Painting Prize is one of the initiatives of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation, all of which reflect a mark of quality, excellence and credibility. The Prize aims to identify, celebrate and highlight the range of excellence and imagination in painting in the UK. At £30,000, it remains the most valuable single prize awarded in the UK and will be granted to an artist who is believed by the panel to demonstrate excellence and originality in painting.

## **THE JERWOOD PAINTING PRIZE**

The Jerwood Painting Prize is one of the major initiatives of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation. The Prize celebrates the vitality and excellence of painting and reflects the energetic and diverse range of approaches within the medium in Britain today.

Established by the Jerwood Foundation in 1994, the Jerwood Painting Prize is based on an open submission of works chosen by the artists. The short list is selected from original works, and the final decision is based on the short listed paintings. The prize is open to any professional artist of any age who is a British citizen or who has lived in Britain for the last three years.

As in any competitive award for the Arts, the selection of the judges is crucial to the credibility and weight of the short list. Each year, a reputable judging panel is selected with regard to the extent and depth of their knowledge of twentieth-century painting in Britain and abroad. The judges are directed to look for excellence and originality in the submissions.

After the rigorous selection process, an exhibition is mounted of paintings by up to six artists short listed for the prize. The £30,000 Jerwood Painting Prize is made to the artist whose work the judges deem. Past winners include Craigie Aitchison, Maggi Hambling and Patrick Caulfield, John Hubbard, Gary Hume, Madeleine Strindberg, Prunella Clough and Katie Pratt.

The distinguished 2003 judging panel are:

David Jaffe	Senior Curator, National Gallery
Martin Gayford	Writer and critic
Norbert Lynton	Writer and curator
Griff Rhys Jones	Collector
Duncan Robinson	Director, Fitzwilliam Museum

## JUDGES INFORMATION

**Duncan Robinson**, Chair of the judging panel, is the Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge. A graduate of both Cambridge and Yale Universities, Mr Robinson was appointed Director of the Yale Centre for British Art in New Haven, Connecticut USA from 1981-1985, before taking up the Directorship at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

**David Jaffe**, has obtained two Master of Arts degrees from the University of Melbourne and the Courtauld Institute, London and is currently Senior Curator at the National Gallery. David has curated such prestigious exhibitions as *Van Gogh: The Sower and the Harvest* and *Renoir*, and written a number of books and catalogues including *Reubens and his Friends*, some *New Letters*, for the Warburg Institute surveys and texts.

**Griff Rhys Jones** is probably best known for his comedy sketch work on the BBC, most notably *Not the Nine O'Clock News*, and *Smith and Jones*. He is a prolific actor and writer and has been recently concentrating on radio work with one of his shows nominated for a Sony award. Griff is an avid collector of art and was a selector for the recent *Discerning Eye* Exhibition.

**Norbert Lynton**, Professor Emeritus of the University of Sussex, is an art historian, writer and teacher. He has served as advisor to the Arts Council and the British Council and as trustee of the National Portrait Gallery. His books include *The Story Of Modern Art* and studies of Klee, Ben Nicholson, Victor Pasmore and Jack Smith.

**Martin Gayford** is the art critic for the Sunday Telegraph. Previously his engagements include a seven year stint as art critic for the Spectator and co-editor for The Penguin Book of Art Writing. With an extensive knowledge of the arts and years of experience as a critic, Martin has been an invaluable member of the judging panel.

## INFORMATION ON SHORT LISTED ARTISTS

### Suzanne Holtom

Born in 1966, Suzanne Holtom gained a post graduate diploma in Fine Art Painting from the Slade School of Fine Art in 1996 and has travelled to Kenya, Africa for research, and to the University of Iowa. Suzanne is the youngest of the finalists, but has been the recipient of several awards including a Woo Charitable Foundation Bursary for research and the development of new work, and the Duveen Travel Scholarship awarded from the Slade School of Fine Art to research and document swahili art forms in Mombasa and Lamu, Kenya.



### John Hoyland

John Hoyland's name has been synonymous with British Abstract painting throughout the last four decades. Born in 1934, John studied at the Royal Academy and remains one of their most distinguished graduates and members. John is extensively travelled, having visited and worked in such diverse locations as Jamaica, Los Angeles, South Africa and Venice.

As well as having exhibited at the Serpentine Gallery, Whitechapel Art Gallery in London and widely across the United States, John was given a retrospective at the Royal Academy of Arts, London in 1999. John has taught at the Slade School of Fine art, St Martin's School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools.



### **Shani Rhys-James**

Born in Australia in 1953, Shani Rhys-James has won considerable critical acclaim as a painter working within the tradition of the self portrait. She has exhibited widely throughout the UK and Europe, and is the recipient of a number of prestigious awards including the the Mostyn Open, the Gold Medal of the National Eisteddfod, the Hunting Prize, and the BBC Visual Artist of the Year Award, won in successive years from 1991. Shani's body of public and private collectors is ever expanding, with work represented in some of Britain's leading collections, including the Arts Council of England, and the Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art.



### **Marc Vaux**

Born in Wiltshire in 1932, Marc Vaux is a highly prolific artist who has rigorously pursued his discipline for over 40 years. Having studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, where he was awarded a diploma, and a Boise travelling Scholarship, Marc was appointed Head of Painting at St Martin's College of Art and Design in London in 1986, resigning in 1989 to focus on his own work. Marc has exhibited widely across the UK, Europe, New York and Australia. His work is held in many prestigious collections including Tate Britain, and the Victoria and Albert Museum.



### **Alison Watt**

Born in Greenock in 1965, Alison Watt studied at Glasgow School of Art, gaining a Masters Degree in 1988. Alison is the recipient of numerous awards including a Scottish Arts Council Individual Artist's Award, and the John Player Portrait Award at the National Portrait Gallery, where she was commissioned to paint Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.. Her work is held in several prestigious collections including the The Freud Museum, the National Portrait Gallery and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. Alison has recently exhibited a solo show at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, London, and a group exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh.



### **John Wonnacott**

John Wonnacott, born in London 1940, studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, and is now living and working in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. John has famously painted a portrait of the Royal Family to celebrate the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday, and was commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery to paint John Major. With work held in such esteemed public collections as Tate Britain, The Arts Council, The National Portrait Gallery and the Metropolitan Museum, New York, John is an artist of notable repute, who is now widely regarded as one of Britain's leading figurative artists.



The winner of the 2003 Jerwood Painting Prize is **SHANI RHYS-JAMES**.

The announcement was made at the Jerwood Space on Tuesday 20th May and the award was presented by Griff Rhys Jones.