

# JERWOOD painting prize

1998

## JERWOOD PAINTING PRIZE 1998

22nd September to 8th November 1998

The winner of the 1998 Jerwood Painting Prize was **MADELEINE STRINDBERG**, announced on Monday 21 September at the opening of the Jerwood Space by the Rt Hon. Chris Smith, MP, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport.

Strindberg is Senior Lecturer in Fine Art at the University of Brighton. She was brought up in Germany and received her art education in England. Strindberg trained at Byam Shaw School of Art, Goldsmiths College and the Royal College of Art in London. Ten years ago she was Artist in Residence at the National Gallery and in 1996 won the Abbey Award in Painting at the British School of Rome.

Strindberg's paintings in the Jerwood exhibition were a response to her preoccupation with the human body, and these works in particular started with the purchase of an Italian medical textbook on the human brain. The paintings are delicate, thinly washed yellow and silver. Pretty though they appear on first impression, these shapes in fact represent detailed slices of the human brain, beautiful yet also menacing.

The 1998 judges, selected for the breadth and depth of their knowledge of late 20th-century painting in Britain and abroad, found the task of selecting and choosing a winner unusually problematic, not just because of the record number of submissions (1247 - almost double the 1997 entry) but also the outstanding calibre of the work. The short-listed artists in the 1998 Jerwood exhibition were Basil Beattie, Richard Beck, Andrew Bick, Alan Brooks, Claude Heath, David Leapman, Edwina Leapman, Chris Ofili, Madeleine Strindberg and William Tillyer. Because of the sheer strength of the work submitted, the judges found it a most difficult challenge to reduce the numbers. The ten selected artists are all exceptional exponents of painting as a versatile and exciting medium. The judging panel was Professor Norbert Lynton (chairman), Mel Gooding, Noreen O'Hare, David Thorp and Dr Patricia Morison.

The exhibition ran from Tuesday 22 September to Sunday 8 November at the new Jerwood Gallery at the Jerwood Space, its inaugural show.

The Jerwood Painting Prize is offered annually by the Jerwood Foundation to celebrate the vitality and excellence of painting in Britain today. The judges look for outstanding submissions, whether from painters whose reputations are newly made, or from older artists whose reputations were made perhaps many years ago, but who continue to work with vigour and creative imagination.

The Prize is unusual in imposing no age restraint. This year The Jerwood Foundation is delighted that, once again, the judges have chosen artists of different generations, their ages ranging from their twenties to late sixties. The competition is judged from the actual works, not slides.

