

Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize 2019 open for submissions

International law firm Ashurst and Oaktree & Tiger announce the launch of the fifth annual Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize, a major global prize for emerging artists.

To celebrate their fifth year the prize has announced new guest judges, new expert speakers to appear as part of their talks series and has further announcements to be released shortly. The winner, selected by a judging panel of eminent art experts, collectors and art critics, will receive a £3,000 cash prize and a solo exhibition in the Ashurst Emerging Artists Gallery in London, with the winner of the sculpture prize receiving a £1,500 cash award and a solo exhibition of their work. There is also the Employee Choice Award of £1,000, chosen by Ashurst employees.

This year Josh McNorton, head of programming at Rich Mix, joins the panel as a guest judge. Josh has a background as a creative producer, festival director, arts programmer and curator. He has produced FutureFest and is the co-founder of Open Senses – the world's first festival of sensory arts and research. Josh will be joined by collector Tim Sayer. Tim has been collecting art for more than 50 years, with a collection spanning ceramics, sculptures, paintings and works on paper. Last year Tim and his wife bequest their collection to The Hepworth Wakefield where 100 of the 400 plus artworks in the collection were exhibited. Tim brings an expertise honed through his collecting.

David Anfam, who specialises in Abstract Expressionism and is senior consulting curator at the Clyfford Still Museum and director of its Research Centre, will join the main panel this year. David will be joined by returning judges David Bellingham, senior lecturer at Sotheby's Institute of Art, director of the Schorr Collection Howard Lewis, art critic and writer Aindrea Emelife and Ashurst Partner Anna Delgado.

The prize is also supported by the UK's leading independent art supplies retailer, Cass Art, who are giving a £500 gift voucher to the winner of the Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize to spend on art supplies, and a £250 gift voucher for both the Sculpture Prize and Employee Choice Award. The Prize is complemented by professionally led talks providing practical guidance for artists, and an extensive social media presence promoting all entrants, in order to benefit as many participating artists as possible globally.

Last year, the Prize again grew in size receiving over 4,120 entries from more than 1,750 artists from as far as Israel, China, Turkey, Germany, Ghana, Poland, America, Argentina and the UK. The shortlisted and winning artists showed key themes that prevailed across entries of gender and sexuality, people's relationship with technology, and the fragility of the human condition, giving a snapshot of what is inspiring emerging artists at present.

Chairman of Ashurst, Ben Tidswell said: "We are delighted to announce the launch of Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize 2019. We're very proud to be running a global initiative that supports artists in the early stages of their careers, alongside Oaktree & Tiger Gallery. The Prize has been hugely successful over the past four years inspiring young artists globally."

Open to artists anywhere in the world, entries are accepted in a wide range of media. The deadline for entries is 10 February 2019, with the shortlist to be announced in April 2019 and final winners

announced in July 2019. All artists who enter before the 25 November will be eligible for practical and individual feedback on their application to help support them in self representing their practice. Full information about how to enter, including entry forms and rules, can be found online at www.artprize.co.uk.

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