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## **Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize 2018 - shortlist announced**

International law firm Ashurst and Oaktree & Tiger are pleased to announce the 25 artists shortlisted for the Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize 2018.

Chosen out of more than 4,100 artworks entered by over 1,700 artists, the shortlist includes artists from Israel, China, Turkey, Germany, Ghana, Poland, America, Argentina and the UK working across a number of mediums including sculpture, digital, painting, and photography.

The 25 shortlisted artists' artworks, chosen by a panel of renowned experts, which includes guest judges Dr David Anfam and Anthony Fawcett, will be exhibited at Ashurst's London offices from the 7 April to 30 June 2018.

This year the overall winner, along with the winners of the sculpture and Employee Choice Awards will receive £3,500, £1,750 and £1,250, respectively, along with solo-exhibitions in the Ashurst Emerging Artist Gallery in London and Cass Art vouchers. For the second year the Prize partners with East London arts organisation Rich Mix London on the East London Award. This is focused on artists who are based or have a practice influenced by East London. The award winner receives a solo exhibition this June 2018 in the Rich Mix London Gallery and a £500 cash prize.

The Prize continues to build its focus on supporting and leading diversity in the visual arts. Prevalent themes in this year's shortlisted artists are representative of the wider ideas entrants were exploring through their submissions around identity be it; gender, heritage, ethnicity, sexuality, and what this means in the current climate. Within the 2018 shortlist itself work exploring gender and the fluidity of gender roles, immigration and migrant identity and what the role of contemporary art is in society today, all feature. Society's relationship to technology – a theme that was touched on in last year's shortlist alongside explorations of mental health remain prevalent and even more relevant to highlight in the 2018 shortlist.

The Prize continues to be complemented with a series of professionally led talks providing practical guidance for artists, an extensive social media presence promoting all entrants and the option for early entrants to request feedback from the art experts. The aim of this is to support Emerging Artists working autonomously to build their profiles and careers without dependency on representation by a gallery or agent.

For further details of the Prize, to be invited to the private view event or to arrange a viewing, please visit [www.artprize.co.uk](http://www.artprize.co.uk).

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**For further media information/interview opportunities please contact:**

Ashurst: Kirstin Munro - +44 20 7859 2448/ [kirstin.munro@ashurst.com](mailto:kirstin.munro@ashurst.com)

Oaktree & Tiger: Conrad Carvalho - +44 (0) 7803 244159 / [artprize@oaktreeandtiger.com](mailto:artprize@oaktreeandtiger.com)

Media Resources available at <http://www.artprize.co.uk/media-room.html>

**Notes to editors:**

The shortlisted artists comprise: Tal Regev, Renata Kudlacek, Sin Park, Abigail Phang Gung Fook, Peihang Huang, Annie-Marie Akussah, Laszlo von Dohnanyi, Ewelina Skowronska, Manuel Remeggio, Stephen Doyle, Ann Mackowski, Richard Graville, Kwanwoo Park, Melissa Murray, Tom Scotcher, Elliot Nehra, Pietro Catarinella, Andy Farr, Ming Ying, Antony Dixon & Forouzan Nazari, Loreal Prystaj, Harry Simmonds, Lauren Wilson, Juan Antonio Cerezuela Zaplana and Mustafa Boga.

