

# ASHURST EMERGING ARTIST PRIZE 2019

SHORTLISTED ARTISTS

[www.artprize.co.uk](http://www.artprize.co.uk)

# Welcome to the Ashurst Emerging Artists Prize 2019 shortlist exhibition

## WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE SHORTLISTED ARTISTS:

Alessandra Bettolo

Alessandra Brown

Amber Arifeen

Amelia Lancaster

Anna Kenneally

Anna Perach

Anna Stevenson

Brendon Khan

Chris Shaw Hughes

Chuanzi Huang

Edward Murray

Elliot Nehra

Elva Mulchrone

Forevermore

Ilya Ivankin

John Williams

Kira Phoenix K'Inan

Marie Lenclos

Matthew Mifsud

Nicolas Laborie

Noa Pane

Noga Shatz

Roberto Grosso

Ruth Brenner

Sam Rachamin

Sarah Selby

Sophie Peters

Susan Wright

Thomas Webb

Wu Ziwei



## INTRODUCTION

The Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize is a global competition for artists seeking exposure of their work and support in the early stages of their careers.

The competition offers every artist the chance to benefit professionally from their submission by providing access to career development talks and events during the submission period, and promotion to our growing audiences which includes galleries, art professionals and collectors.

This year, the shortlist was chosen out of more than 4,450 artworks entered by over 1,900 artists from around the world, working across a variety of mediums including sculpture, painting, photography and, for the first time, new media.

Each of the shortlisted artists will progress to the final stage of judging, in which a panel of renowned art experts, collectors and critics will select the winner in each of the award categories.

The overall winner, along with the winners of the sculpture and choice awards, will receive £3,500, £1,750 and £1,250, respectively, including solo-exhibitions in the Ashurst Emerging Artists Gallery and Cass Art vouchers.

For the third year the Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize will partner with East London arts organisation Rich Mix, this time to launch the new media award which will award one artist £1,000 and a solo exhibition at Rich Mix.

The winner of the new photography award, supported by Genesis Imaging and Fujifilm, will receive £500 and £1,000 worth of production services and a 12-month professional mentorship with Genesis Imaging.

For more information on the Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize, visit **[www.artprize.co.uk](http://www.artprize.co.uk)**



## ABOUT THE SPONSORS

**Ashurst** is a leading global law firm, advising the world's largest companies, financial institutions and governments on their most complex deals and disputes.

Operating from 26 offices in 16 countries our deep experience and expertise in industries experiencing significant change enables us to provide pragmatic and commercial solutions to our clients, thus enabling them to achieve business success.

With a constant focus on quality and expertise, a collaborative and inclusive approach and a culture that encourages people to embark on a fresh perspective, we deliver a distinctive service to our clients that sets us apart from other law firms.

We have broad industry experience including Digital Economy, Energy and Resources, Funds and Banks, Infrastructure and Real Estate. We have a reputation for bringing a fresh perspective to business challenges, successfully managing large and complex multi-jurisdictional transactions and delivering outstanding solutions for our clients.

See more at [www.ashurst.com](http://www.ashurst.com)





## ABOUT THE SUPPORTERS

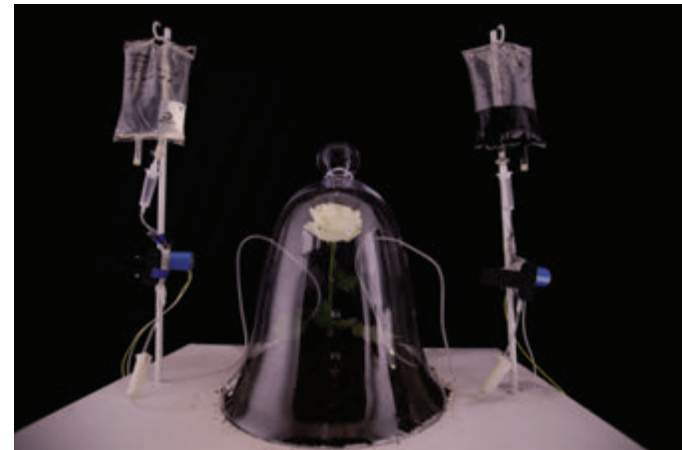
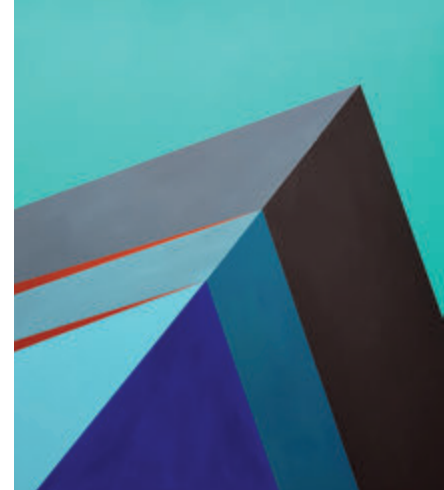
**Cass Art**, the UK's leading independent art supplies retailer is committed to supporting artists across the UK and is proudly supporting the Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize 2019 with £1,000 of vouchers to spend on arts supplies for all the winners.

With nine locations, including six in London, Glasgow, Bristol and Liverpool, Cass Art shops are inspiring spaces for artists of all ages and abilities, plus stocking the best materials at the best prices. See more at [www.cassart.co.uk](http://www.cassart.co.uk)

**Rich Mix** is East London's independent arts venue and operates as a charity and social enterprise.

Rich Mix's aim is to be a place where citizens of East London, and beyond, can come together to experience and make world class art and feel that it is a place where they belong. The venue offers a multitude of flexible performance spaces where they work with both emerging and established artists to support them to deliver and develop their artistic practice.

Ashurst is proud to collaborate with Rich Mix for the New Media Award to bring more awareness of the great work they do in the local community. See more at [www.richmix.org.uk](http://www.richmix.org.uk)





**Genesis Imaging** has been supporting world class photographers and artists, international galleries, museums, interior designers, architects and individuals for over 20 years. Working across the breadth of the creative industries to deliver a wide range of projects through their diverse range of production services. Covering everything from traditional printing to more innovative processes such as direct to media across a range of substrates Genesis supports clients in bringing their work and exhibitions to life.



**Fujifilm** is known as the world's largest photographic and imaging company. Celebrating their 80th anniversary this year, Fujifilm is at the forefront of innovation supporting both the creative industries and further afield.

## ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

**Oaktree & Tiger** is an art consultant and art projects team based in South Kensington, London, that specialise in emerging artists and art investment. They source and advise on art for private clients and corporates, and offer art rental and investment, as well as a platform for clients to publicly support up and coming talent.

See more at [www.oaktreeandtiger.com](http://www.oaktreeandtiger.com)

ashurst

GASS  
ART  
EST.1984

RICH  
MIX

GENESIS  
IMAGING  
Creation Through Image



&



# Alessandra Bettolo

## LE SMOKING

Alessandra Bettolo is an Italian-born London-based architect, designer and painter. Her practice is concerned with exploring the harm society causes by dividing people according to artificial constraints of colour, ethnicity, gender, geography, religion and politics. Through her paintings she aims to break down stereotypes and challenge discrimination by reframing her subjects.







Medium: Oil on canvas Dimensions: 122 x 92cm



# Alessandra Brown

## DE-GENERATION 14

Bologna born UK-based artist, Alessandra Brown explores notions of lost identity through photography. She works with objects that convey a sense of fragility and the ideas she explores evolve as they are being transformed by time and space. This shift in context allows the artist to see beyond its original meaning and re-appropriate them to create her own 'histories'.

# Amber Arifeen

## A HOUSE

Originally from Pakistan, Amber Arifeen works between London and Karachi and has an MA in Fine Art from Wimbledon College of Arts. Through her mixed media practice Amber recalibrates the ways of seeing and being eastern and female using portraiture of women as a way of contextualising the female experience through patterns, objects and imagery. Amber presents her female subjects through a new lens, one that does not sit within the male or post-colonial gaze.





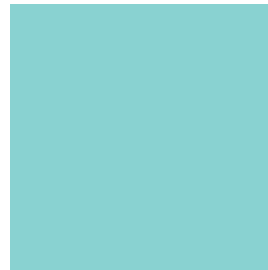
Medium: Acrylic, oils, and image transfer on panel Dimensions: 120 x 69cm



# Amelia Lancaster

## REGENERATION

Photographic artist Amelia Lancaster is based in London and originally trained in architecture and set design before becoming an artist. She is interested in Brutalist Architecture and Modernist Housing Estates, and more recently – through a residency on the South Kilburn Estate – has been documenting the regeneration of the area. Her shortlisted work records the demolition of the place in a way that is reverential to the lived experience within the properties and creates a memory of the community before urban transformation. So layers of the block are stripped away revealing traces of past lives. The starkness, scale and perspective create an impression of a decaying cellular structure reflecting the end of an era.





# Anna Kenneally

## THE BALLAD OF HIPPIE JOHN

Painter Anna Kenneally studied for her degree in Fine Art at the University of Bath. Her practice explores love, death, beauty and tragedy. Using references from mythology, the history of painting, folklore and also current issues, the paintings become tarot-like symbols for their subject and their emotion. The idea of artist as subject in her paintings allow muse and maker to become one and to uncover the many faces of the artist, from historic depictions of the tortured or the suffering artist to the other more bohemian and romantic ideas we have of creative people. She reinvents existing subjects, to form a hybrid between the historical and the contemporary.



Medium: Oil & acrylic on canvas Dimensions: 135 x 175cm



# Anna Perach

## SHADOW

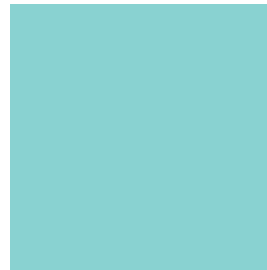
Anna Perach is originally from the Ukraine and is currently completing her MA in Fine Art at Goldsmiths. Anna's practice draws on experiences and memories of the Soviet domestic environment and its encounter with Israeli culture. She explores how immigration and cultural transitions influence the formation of one's sense of self in relation to family, community and heritage. She is interested in examining the role of the "other" as it is defined by one's community as well as a subjective experience. Her sculptural work integrates these ideas and explores the domestic space as an extension of the self where otherness is performed through mundane rituals and decor.



# Anna Stevenson

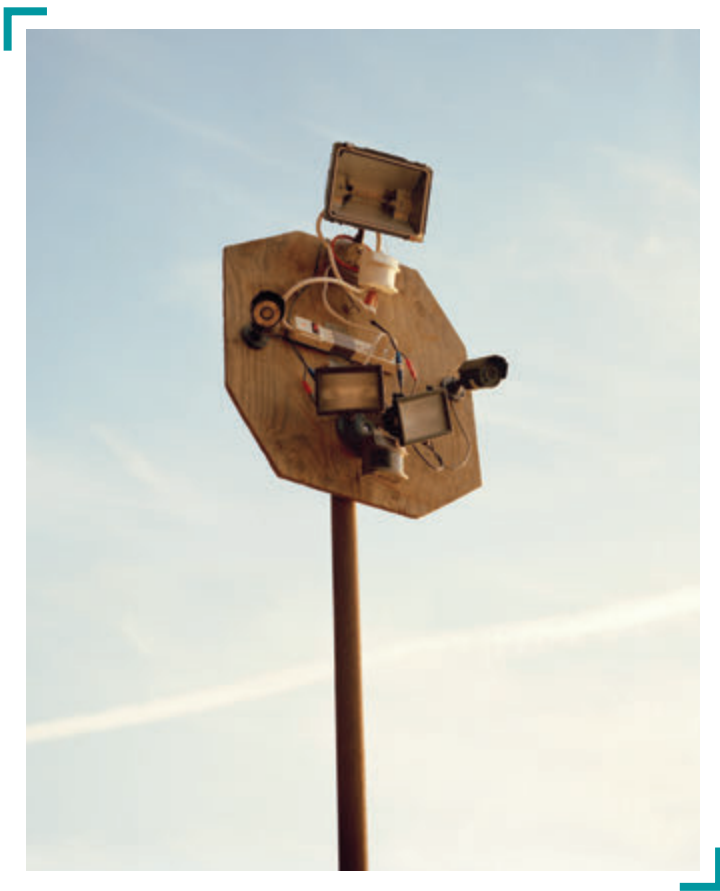
## No.7

London-based oil painter Anna Stevenson is currently completing her BA in Fine Art at City & Guilds of London Art School. Her work centres on representing figures by depicting their presence through their own creations and habitat. Immersing herself in a process of layering and rearranging the landscape, through colour, shape and line, she transforms the mystical ambience found in the city to the visual in order to unlock the psyche of the human presence in its environment. Anna's canvas documents her journey in understanding how this human presence relates to its environment.





Medium: Oil on canvas Dimensions: 100 x 151cm





# Brendon Khan

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

California-based photographer Brendon Kahn's work explores today's reality. Guided by competition alongside the fierce longing to ascend into what many call paradise. What lies in this pursuit are strangely manufactured channels of both sincerity and unsettling moments that make us question our ultimate wishes. These uncomfortable forms of excess, desire, and hope to live forever, tie us together but also create further separation than ever before in this consummate dance to the finishing line. Working in the medium of photography enables Brendon to unify a world of opposition where tension is unconsciously programmed.

# Chris Shaw Hughes

## GAZA, SYRIA 2016

British artist Chris Shaw Hughes has completed both a BA and MA in Fine Art at the University of Brighton. Through painstakingly crafted paintings and drawings, Chris documents important geographical terrains and significant historical snapshots that are at once both visually arresting and thought-provoking. His detailed work captures moments of tension that are often overexposed in the news and asks us to reflect on their meaning in greater depth. Currently his practice is heavily engaged with methods of mechanical reproduction – using both photography and carbon paper in his current practice.





# Chuanzi Huang

## NO ONE IS HERE 2

Chinese artist Chuanzi Huang is currently completing her MA in fine art at Wimbledon. Her painting practice revolves around the way subjects exist in different sociocultural contexts. She is interested in current changes in contemporary society and the increasing speed with which these occur, which have forced human beings to adjust psychologically in a very short time.

# Edward Murray

## SINGLE USE 2

Edward Murray is currently completing his part time MA at Norwich University. His sculptural practice seeks to represent the transient nature of reality. Materials which we consider as waste products, such as plastic bags and cardboard used briefly then discarded, are made into sculptural objects. These abstract, architectonic forms, poised precariously on tentative legs, are based on technologically complex creations of our time and a testament to genius and fragility. The potential for these forms to be enshrined in bronze, preserved and made sacred for perpetuity, opens the door to the question of the validity of the quest for permanence, the attempt to fix a moment in time, to find solace in the restless, transient ephemera of existence.



Medium: Steel, aluminium, latex, plastic and wax Dimensions: 90 x 30 x 40cm





# Elliot Nehra

## DRINKS SPILLED

Elliot Nehra, in his second year of a BA in Fine Art at the University of Brighton, was shortlisted for the Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize in 2018 and now returns with new work. His paintings depict a fabricated space that is at once surreal and perfectly ordinary. The everyday inspires the work; the paintings materialise as an instinctive response to the world, commenting on Nehra's life, experiences, feelings, memories and background. The multifaceted, complicated nature of masculinity, of being and becoming a man is explored. Nehra creates a reality that he and the viewer can get lost in, where paint is celebrated, and colour is enjoyed. The viewer is invited to step into the ambiguous scenes and question the significance of the simple objects Nehra depicts which are loaded with iconography and metaphor by the artist.

# Elva Mulchrone

## CONTINUUM IV

Originally from Ireland Elva is currently studying her MA in Fine Art at the Royal College of Art. Conceptually driven, her practice examines the role of mathematics and abstraction in contextualising and re-contextualising an understanding of who and where we are, social science concerns, repeat pattern and of aesthetics. Her current work explores the political, sociological and emotional state of the nation of Britain.

To date Elva's primary degree in Economics and analysis of data informs her practice. Analysis of numbers/data and formulae increasingly determines the manner in which many aspects of our life are structured, managed, understood and valued.

She presents layers of information and, through paint, colour, movement and video, questions what is pertinent, accurate or real. In a world where we are presented with an abundance of information in a multiplicity of contexts, she invites the viewer to ask themselves what really matters.



Medium: Oil, acrylic and ink on linen Dimensions: 87 x 94cm



# Forevermore

## MOZINERINE

Based in Toronto Brazilian artists Raquel Palis and Paulo Ramos collaborate to form the collective “Forevermore”. The duo bring use augmented reality as their medium to highlight discrepancies between the analog/real and virtual worlds, and observe what happens when these environments collide. They investigate how we are influenced by digital communication on a large scale by pushing the boundaries of contemporary art, engaging demographics with the innovative use of technology and empowering the public in order to get them to explore narratives beyond the digital.

The artist's work becomes interactive after scanning a QR code.



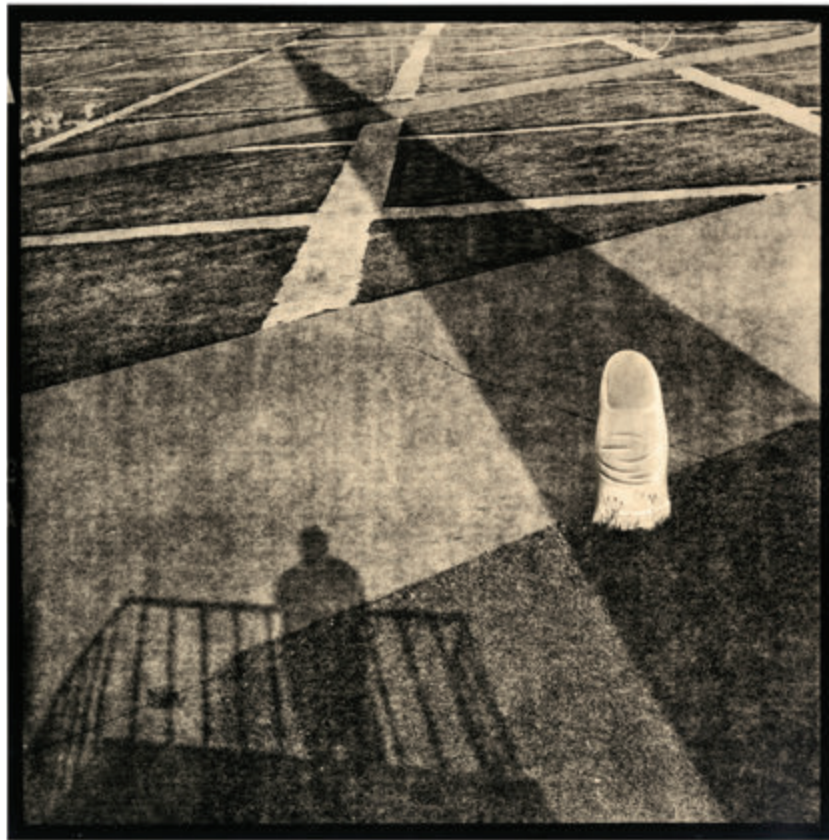
# Ilya Ivankin

## RESENTMENT 004

Russian artist Ilya Ivankin uses analogue photography as his medium and is interested in spiritual, psychological and social conflicts, influenced by philosophers Sartre and Meillassoux. He uses analogue methods to take ultimate control away from how he creates his works and encourage discussion around the intrinsic value of human subjectivity and imperfection.







Medium: Archival inkjet print on paper Dimensions: 86 x 86cm



# John Williams

## SHELL

UK-based sculptor John Williams is intrigued by the idea that we have a sense of self, a self based upon memories of the experiences of life. Simultaneously and distinct from that, a self that is able to observe thoughts from a separate, objective perspective.

His sculptures take the form of mute fragments of the physical body that encourage the viewer to complete the image. Strict classical Greek depiction of the ideal figure together with visual references to fossils are competing aesthetics which fascinate John.

In a world that is preoccupied with the human condition, John makes art that addresses the fundamental questions of who we are and why we are here, exploring the foundation of human essence and spirituality.

# Kira Phoenix K'Inan

## COLLATERAL BEAUTY IN WHITE

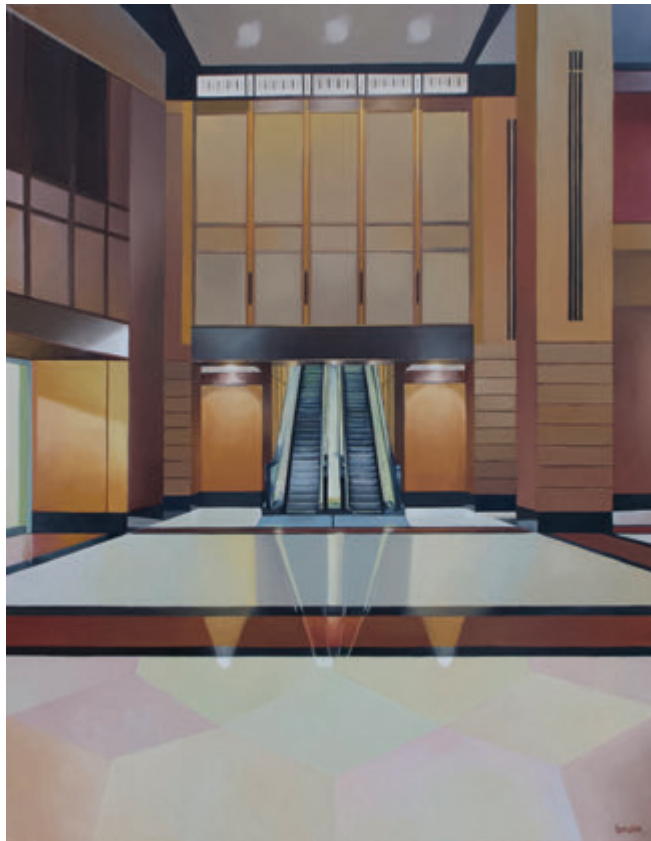
London-based artist and designer Kira Phoenix K'Inan brings together fine art and craft through her glass sculptures. Kira's artwork explores the nature of drawing and how intertwining each line creates works that are in a constant visual flux.

While Kira was a Masters student at the Royal College of Art she explored traditional glass techniques and translated them into a contemporary series of glass sculptures. She developed a unique technique of low relief drawing, the Relief Drawing Technique, where she carved directly into a plaster sheet and cast the piece using finely ground glass.





Medium: Glass Dimensions: 50 x 50cm



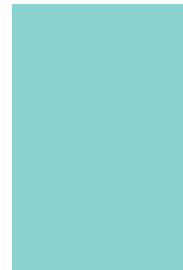
# Marie Lenclos

## HELLO

French painter Marie Lenclos is now based in London and uses the city as her inspiration. Marie's oil paintings capture moments of light and order within the urban chaos. Often mundane or domestic, the landscapes or interiors she paints present themselves to her during her journeys to and from work across South London.

She is interested in the angle, composition, set of colours and the way the lines fall of familiar architecture and scenes: a painting imposes itself in this moment.

The resulting works present a unique stillness in urban spaces and architecture. The paintings work like long exposure photographs, intensifying colours and removing traces of people and activity, allowing both artist and observer to contemplate the interplay of colour, light and form in the physical environments we inhabit.



# Matthew Mifsud

## BLUE LOOMING (SHADE)

London-based Matthew Mifsud was born in Luqa, Malta. He attended the University of Malta where he read Chemistry and Biology. After a brief stint working in the pharmaceutical industry, he moved to Edinburgh where he completed a MA in Creative Advertising before moving to London. His work in advertising heavily influences his current artistic style where he takes inspiration from architecture and plays with colour and the balance of light and dark to create his paintings.





Medium: Acrylic on canvas Dimensions: 75 x 60cm



# Nicolas Laborie

## JOSEPHINE, SUFFRAGETTE MILLENNIAL REBEL

Nicolas Laborie is a London-based commercial photographer and Wet Plate Collodion artist.

Born in Paris, France, Nicolas has experience in analogue as well as high resolution digital, with post-production video editing facilities.

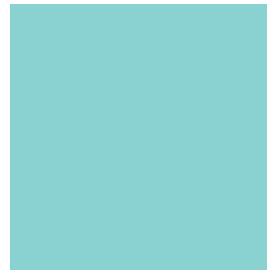
His shortlisted series The Suffragettes : Millennial Rebels series are presented in an historical photographic process created in the 19th century – wet plate collodion photography – in collaboration with Milliner Claire Strickland who created all the hats for the series.

To celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the vote for women in the UK – Representation of the People Act 1918 – young millennial women were invited to pose and reflect on what the anniversary means to them. Aged between 16 and 20 years old, they are represented here as Suffragettes who fought for the right to vote for women in UK.

# Noa Pane

## PRECARIOUS BALANCES 1

Italian artist Noa Pane is now based in London. Her current work often consists of sculptures and on-site installations, using recycled materials or materials that can be found in ordinary workshops, such as clamps, straps and scaffolding, which are returned to their general use after the exhibition. Noa combines these materials with inflatable and fluid elements such as air and water (essential factors of our environment that are often taken for granted), using things like bubbles and balloons as adaptable elements that can fill and react to their environment in different ways. These impermanent materials are playful but can disappear at any moment making them “tense” objects, under internal and external pressure: you inflate it and you have to take care of it.





Medium: Installation; inflatable, air, clamps Dimensions: 160 x 150 x 150cm



# Noga Shatz

## THE ROAD TRIP HANKEY

London-based Israeli artist Noga Pane completed her MA in Fine Art at the Slade School of Fine Art in 2015. Her practice deals with a body in a state of conflict. This body is both physical and metaphorical.

In her recent work, Noga has created mono-type prints. Using the immediate transfer of the applied image, and the mirroring nature of this technique, she explores ideas and images originating from her personal experiences as an artist living in a foreign culture. In this autobiographical perspective she examines wider environments controlled by notions of loss and alienation.

In her shortlisted series “The Handkerchiefs”, she is depicting memories, then folding them back into themselves, transforming the two-dimensional image into an object – a memento. Each handkerchief holds a memory of an actual physical place, depicted as I remember/ then re-remember it through the action of creating, which restore and reinvent, a new narrative.

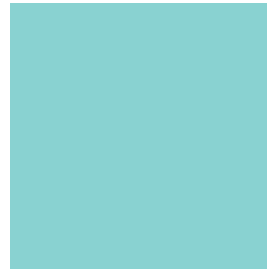


# Roberto Grosso

## ELEANOR RIGBY

Painter and new media artist Roberto Grosso takes inspiration from music and produces his work on metal, metallic paper or Perspex. The key elements of his artworks are the use of vibrant colours and augmented reality which brings the artwork to life by showing the stages of its creation to a soundtrack of the music that inspired it.

The artist's work becomes interactive after scanning a QR code.







Medium: Print on brushed metal Dimensions: 105 x 70cm



# Ruth Brenner

## EXPERIMENTUM 2016 CROPPED

Ruth Brenner is a Scottish sculptor and installation artist living and working in Newcastle upon Tyne. She is currently engaged in a practice-led PhD, combining a study of phenomenology and sculptural practice to research corporeality and the bodily acts of making.

Corporeality is the quality of being or having a material body, therefore Brenner's work engages with the physical and mental act of making and material exploration in relation to elemental materials, elemental processes and direct engagement with materials. The influences of corporeality are central to her practice as the work has a direct association with her bodily dimensions such as her physical ability, sensory awareness and her relationship with the material. Making is, therefore, inextricably linked with the outcome which is a visual record of cognitive processes. When emotion, perception and material work together, they become one.

In an attempt to close the gap between the theoretical and the practical, Brenner's work aims to celebrate the immersive experience of using one's hands to engage with the materials of the world while giving the embodied practice of making theoretical underpinning.

# Sam Rachamin

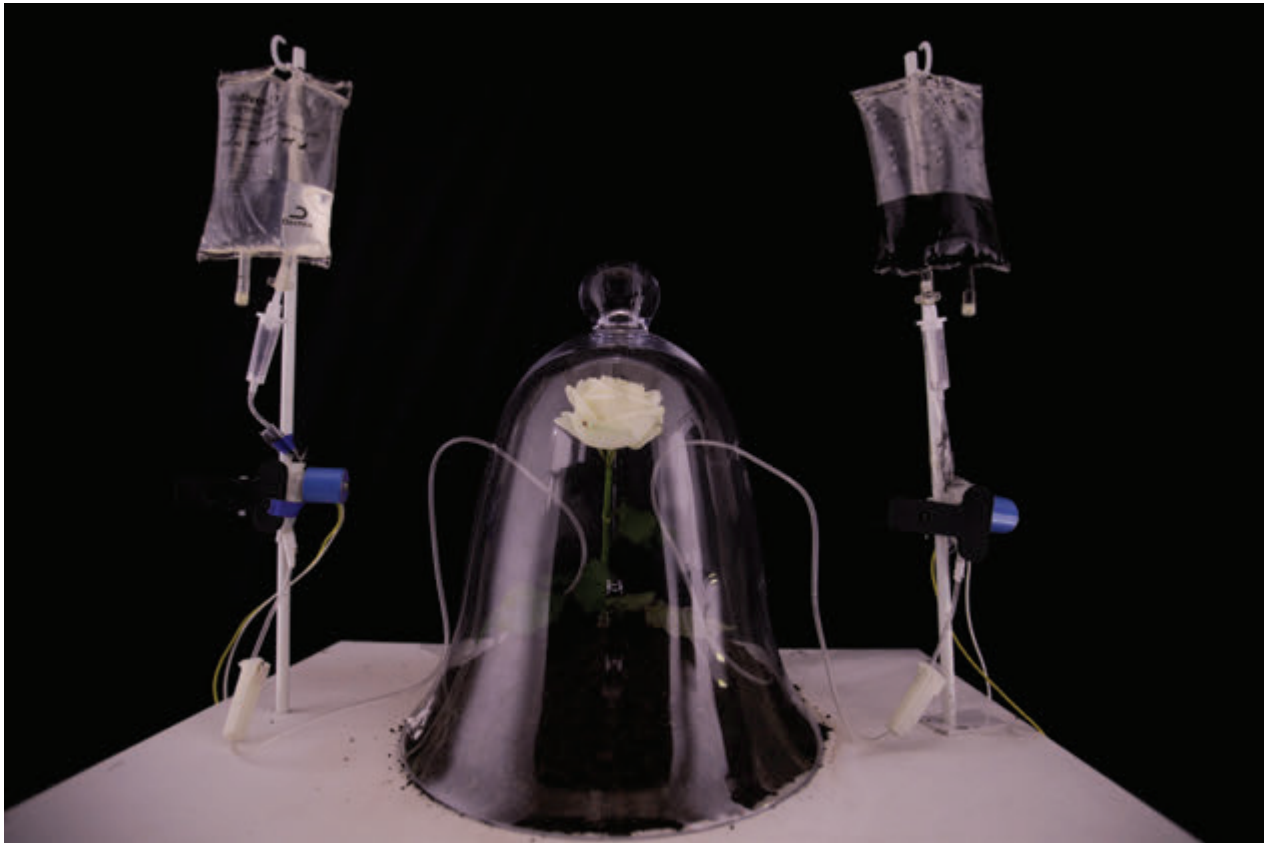
## **AUTO PORTRAIT PARIS 2019**

Israeli artist Sam Rachamin is based in Paris and works as a painter. After growing up in violent and militant circumstances in Israel he chose painting and art as a refuge. He believes that his gift is painting and that the way he can change this world for the best is by creating art and teaching others to paint. He is a figurative realistic painter that works from nature and the model. Sam uses versatile Modern and Old Master techniques to create his paintings.





Medium: Oil on wood Dimensions: 104 x 78cm



# Sarah Selby

## IF YOU LEAVE IT UP TO THE AUDIENCE, THEY CAN KILL YOU

Bristol based Sarah Selby is an interdisciplinary artist interested in the creative applications of pervasive technology. Born at the intersection of the Millennials and iGeneration, her work is heavily inspired by her unique perspective on the rapid changes in technology and the societal impacts of this. She explores the relationship between the digital and physical through tangible objects that fuse our two worlds – exploring how they overlap, contradict and impact one another.

Sarah graduated from Interactive Arts at Manchester Metropolitan University in 2017 and was awarded the MMU Science Community Award after being selected to participate in interdisciplinary residency “Roche Continents”. She was also recently selected for Arebyte Gallery’s “Hotel Generation” programme.

See the video of the artwork after scanning a QR code.



# Sophie Peters

## THEO'S PLASTIC BEACH

Sophie Peters is a self-taught visual artist interested in the use of art in protecting human rights and disrupting societal assumptions (particularly regarding gender roles, power systems, consumerism and identity). She works primarily with paint, but also explores the use of mixed media, text and film. Sophie believes in the intersection of art with science and its involvement in everyday discourses. She was born in Minnesota but grew up in the south of England.





Medium: Oil and acrylic on canvas Dimensions: 150 x 100cm



# Susan Wright

## TOPOGRAPHY RECONSIDERED

After many years working as a teacher of deaf children, Susan recently completed an MA in Creative Practice at Leeds Arts University and now works as an experimental artist/printmaker.

Her practice reflects a continuing interest in visual language and storytelling, and is concerned with the temporal materiality of landscapes and the way that, over time, they are constantly in a state of flux, transformed and recast by human intervention. Printed imagery is developed using discarded and decaying books, found within a local landscape. They reveal a palimpsest of layers that are organic, temporal, and physical and question the reality of the past, present and future. The vibrancy between object and environment creates tension as the fragile landscape seeks to assert itself above the increasingly overwhelming impact of humanity.

# Thomas Webb

## I JUST POSTED THIS BUT NO ONE WILL READ IT

Thomas Webb is a British born new media artist living in London, UK. His practice orbits real-time data and how it can be applied to reveal present contemporary life. Thomas produces works that are programmed using numerous server systems connected to real-time data sources and social media. His work presents a fluid account of emotion defined by the millions of users it gathers information from.

See the short film on the artwork after scanning a QR code.





Medium: LED display and mirror Dimensions: 53 x 97cm



# Wu Ziwei

## THE PUNISHMENT OF TANTALUS

Wu Ziwei is a new media contemporary artist from China currently studying an MA in Computational Arts at Goldsmiths. Her artworks are mainly based on biology, science and their influence in the society. Wu uses a range of media such as painting, installation, Audio-Visual, 2D and 3D animation, VR, mapping and so on.

See the video of the artwork after scanning a QR code.



For further details on the shortlisted artworks, please visit [www.artprize.co.uk](http://www.artprize.co.uk)



[www.ashurst.com](http://www.ashurst.com)

London Fruit & Wool Exchange, 1 Duval Square, London E1 6PW. T: +44 (0)20 7638 1111 F: +44 (0)20 7638 1112 [www.ashurst.com](http://www.ashurst.com). Ashurst LLP and its affiliates operate under the name Ashurst. Ashurst LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales under number OC330252. It is a law firm authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority of England and Wales under number 468653. The term "partner" is used to refer to a member of Ashurst LLP or to an employee or consultant with equivalent standing and qualifications or to an individual with equivalent status in one of Ashurst LLP's affiliates. Further details about Ashurst can be found at [www.ashurst.com](http://www.ashurst.com). © Ashurst LLP 2019 R000337