



HIX AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED



Melissa Hartley: *Reflection*, Acrylic paint on birch ply, 244 x 438 x 1.2cm

The HIX Award, the art prize set up by the restaurateur and author Mark Hix, is delighted to announce the year's shortlisted artists, all whom will feature in a group exhibition at HIX ART, opening September 14, 2019.

The shortlisted artists are: Alexander Dixon, Bianca Barandun, Christopher Hartmann, Dafni Atha, David Mullen, Gabriela Giroletti, Jacob Littlejohn, Jung Min Park, Lucy Gregory, Megan Mary Baker, Melissa Hartley, Paul Wood, Richard Baker, Saroj Patel, Yulia Iosilzon.

The award, which carries a £10,000 first prize to put towards studio costs, is open to current students and recent graduates of UK art colleges. It was created in 2013 by Hix to give young artists a platform to showcase their work and take their first steps in their professional careers. The winner will also receive a solo exhibition at HIX ART, Hix's Shoreditch gallery.

This year's main sponsor is the international gallery, Hauser & Wirth. Says its co-founder and President, Iwan Wirth: *'Our role as gallery is to be an incubator for art, talent and ideas. Artists are at the core of all our activities so we are particularly proud to support the HIX award, an initiative which helps artists at a crucial moment when they are starting out on their journey.'*

Says Mark Hix: *'We were overwhelmed by the applicants this year and it was as hard as ever to narrow the field down to just fifteen. It will be even harder to pick a winner!'*

The winner will be announced on 24 October at an awards ceremony at the gallery, where they will be presented with a trophy designed by the artist Damien Hirst. The second prize winner will receive £1,000 CASS art vouchers and the People's Choice winner will get a weekend trip for two to HIX Townhouse in Lyme Regis with a dinner at HIX Oyster & Fish House.

The judges this year include Iwan Wirth, Eliza Bonham-Carter, Head of Art, Royal Academy of Arts, Dylan Jones, GQ editor, Joe Kennedy, Unit Gallery Founder Director and artist Charming Baker.

Past winners of the award include: Nicholas Permain (2013), Felix Treadwell (2014), Ally McIntyre (2015), Joshua Raz (2016), Sam Bailey (2017). Last year's winner, Elizabeth Eade says: *'Winning the HIX Award has been amazing. The prize money has allowed me to continue to take adventures with my work, which has been a joy. I have had a busy year exhibiting, preparing for my solo exhibition and finishing my MA at Brighton, this has really focused my practice. It has also given me a confidence in my artistic convictions and I hope that this has translated into my work. I guess I feel braver.'*

The HIX Award 2019

September 14 - November 10

HIX ART: 32 Rivington Street

London

EC2A 3LX

+44 (0) 20 70 33 06 50

www.hixart.co.uk

For press information, please contact Albany Arts Communications:

Mark Inglefield

mark@albanyartscommunications.com

t: +44 (0) 20 78 79 88 95; m: +44 (0) 75 84 19 95 00

Carla von der Becke

carla@albanyartscommunications.com

t: +44 (0) 20 78 79 88 95; m: + 44 (0) 79 74 25 29 94

Notes to Editors:

About HIX ART

HIX ART is located in the basement of Mark Hix's Tramshed on Rivington Street, Shoreditch. A wide range of artists, from the established to the undiscovered, are given the opportunity to showcase their work with exhibitions changing every eight weeks. It is a celebration of Mark Hix's love for art and hunger for innovation and creativity.

About Hauser & Wirth

Hauser & Wirth was founded in 1992 in Zurich by Iwan Wirth, Manuela Wirth and Ursula Hauser, who were joined in 2000 by Partner and Vice President Marc Payot. A family business with a global outlook, Hauser & Wirth has expanded over the past 27 years to include outposts in Hong Kong, London, New York, Los Angeles, Somerset, Gstaad and St. Moritz. The gallery represents over 80 artists and estates who have been instrumental in shaping its identity over the past quarter century, and who are the inspiration for Hauser & Wirth's diverse range of activities that engage with art, education, conservation and sustainability. In 2020, Hauser & Wirth will open a new purpose-built flagship gallery in New York's Chelsea neighbourhood, and an arts centre on Isla Del Rey in Menorca.

Other sponsors

Investec Bank, L'atelier Five, Neon Specialist, Cass Art, GQ and Gin Mare & 1725 Tonic



HAUSER & WIRTH

