

News Release

30 August 2018

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY'S TAYLOR WESSING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2018... SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED



Cybil McAddy with daughter Lulu from the series **Clapton Blossom** by Enda Bowe 2018 © Enda Bowe; **Portrait of 'Strong' Joe Smart** from the series **Tombo's Wound** by Joey Lawrence 2017 © Joey Lawrence; **Tanique Williams, Cape Town, South Africa, 2018** from the series **Drummies** by Alice Mann © Alice Mann; **Untitled** from the series **Londoners** by Max Barstow 2017 © Max Barstow

Four photographers have been shortlisted for the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2018*, the international photography award organised by the National Portrait Gallery, London, now celebrating its eleventh anniversary under Taylor Wessing's sponsorship.

The prize-winning portraits include photographs of a London mother holding her baby; a child from a remote village in the jungle of Sierra Leone's Eastern Province; a series on the all-female teams of drum majorettes in South Africa's Western Province; and a double portrait of a pair of shoppers taken in England's capital.



Taylim Prince, Cape Town, South Africa, 2017, Keisha Ncube, Cape Town, South Africa, 2017; Wakiesha Titus and Riley Van Harte, Cape Town, South Africa, 2018 from the series *Drummies* by Alice Mann © Alice Mann

The annual *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize* is one of the most prestigious photography awards in the world and showcases new work that has been submitted by some of the most exciting contemporary photographers. Since the international competition began in 1993, it has remained a hugely important platform for portrait photographers and offers an unparalleled opportunity for celebrated professionals, emerging artists and amateurs alike. The winner of the first prize will receive £15,000. The second prize winner receives £3,000 and the third prize £2,000.

This year's exhibition will also feature previously unseen prints from a new body of work by Japanese photographer Rinko Kawauchi. The prints will form the fourth *In Focus* display, an annual showcase for new work by an internationally renowned photographer, which will be exhibited alongside the photographs selected from the competition entries. Kawauchi is a Japanese photographer whose work came to prominence with the simultaneous publication of three books: *Hanako* (a documentary of a young girl of the same name), *Hanabi* (which translates as 'fireworks') and *Utatane* (a Japanese word that describes the state between wakefulness and sleep. In 2002 Kawauchi was awarded the Kimura-Ihei-Prize, Japan's most important emerging talent photography prize, following the publication of her first photobooks. Kawauchi has had major exhibitions at Les Rencontres d'Arles, France and The Photographers' Gallery, London. As well as being the recipient of the International Center of Photography's eminent Infinity Award in the Art category in 2009, Kawauchi's photography was shortlisted for the 2012 Deutsche Börse photography prize and the Prix Pictet in 2016.

The following four photographers have been shortlisted for the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2018*:

***Untitled* from the series *Londoners* by Max Barstow**

Max Barstow (25.05.1994) is a London-born photographer with an interest in images about city life, with his work inspired by a combination of studio and documentary photography. The photograph selected, a double portrait of two shoppers, has been taken from Barstow's series titled, *Londoners*. Barstow says, 'I began creating the series with the aim to make un-posed portraits with the intensity of images made by great studio portrait photographers such as Richard Avedon and Irving Penn. The photograph selected is a strongly composed and graphically-arresting image. It freezes a pair of friends shopping in the flow of a busy Summer Sunday afternoon in the centre of London. I believe the image is peculiarly interesting as a portrait in that it was taken swiftly in the middle of a crowd of passers-by – it is, unusually, both a formally successful portrait with a classic studio-aesthetic and a street photograph in the broad idiom of Henri Cartier-Bresson and Garry Winogrand.'

***Cybil McAddy with daughter Lulu* from the series *Clapton Blossom* by Enda Bowe**

Enda Bowe (21.05.1972) is an Irish photographer based in London. Bowe's work is concerned with storytelling and the search for light and beauty in the ordinary. He has had work exhibited at Red Hook Gallery, New York, The V&A Museum, London, Fotohof, Salzburg, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, and The Visual Centre Of Contemporary Art, Ireland. The photograph selected, a portrait of Cybil and Lulu, is from a series of portraits titled *Clapton Blossom*. Bowe says, 'the series focuses on finding the colour and beauty in the urban, the light in the grey. At the centre of the housing estate where this project was made stands a huge cherry blossom tree, the unifying heart of the estate. The

beauty of the blossom, symbolising hope, optimism and new beginnings connects the people within the project together.'

Portrait of 'Strong' Joe Smart from the series **Tombo's Wound** by **Joey Lawrence**

Joey Lawrence (05.11.1989) is a Canadian-born photographer based in Brooklyn, New York celebrated for both his humanitarian projects and high-profile commissions. Lawrence has built his style by dedicating vast amount of time and resources to passion projects which emphasise the humanity in underserved communities. Commissioned by WaterAid, Lawrence's shortlisted portrait of Joe Smart is part of a series shot in Tombohuaun, translation 'Tombo's Wound,' a remote village tucked into the jungle of Sierra Leone's Eastern Province struggling with water-borne illnesses. 'Rather than just creating images that underscored Tombohuaun's plight', Lawrence says, 'WaterAid and I envisioned a portrait study of the community that would highlight its resilience, its fraternity, its highly organized structure, and its work ethic. These are all the traits that will enable the village to thrive and sustain its clean water resources and practices long after the NGO has completed its work.'

Tanique Williams, Cape Town, South Africa, 2018; Taylim Prince, Cape Town, South Africa, 2017; Keisha Ncube, Cape Town, South Africa, 2017; Wakiesha Titus and Riley Van Harte, Cape Town, South Africa, 2018 from the series **Drummies** by **Alice Mann**

Alice Mann (05.09.1991) is a South African photographic artist based in London whose intimate portraiture essays explore notions of picture making as an act of collaboration. Her shortlisted series was shot in South Africa's Western Province, focusing on the all-female teams of drum majorettes. Alice Mann says, 'For these girls, involvement in 'drummies' becomes a vehicle for them to excel, and the distinctive uniforms serve as a visual marker of perceived success and represents emancipation from their surroundings. Continuing my consideration into notions of femininity and empowerment in modern society, it was my intent to create images that reflect the pride and confidence the girls achieve through identifying as 'drummies'.'

Judged anonymously, the diversity of styles in the exhibition reflects the international mix of entries as well as photographers' individual and varied approaches to the genre of portraiture. Photographers were again encouraged to submit works as a series in addition to stand-alone portraits, and there was no minimum size requirement for prints.

In the competition's second year of digital entry, the prize-winning photographs and those selected for inclusion in the exhibition were chosen from 4,462 submissions entered by 1,973 photographers from 70 countries. A total of 57 portraits from 49 artists have been selected for display, of which 4 submissions are a series.

This year's judging panel was **Dr Nicholas Cullinan**, Chair (Director, National Portrait Gallery, London); **Miles Aldridge** (Photographer); **Shane Gleghorn**, Managing Partner, Taylor Wessing LLP; **Sabina Jaskot-Gill** (Curator of Photographs, National Portrait Gallery, London); **Renée Mussai** (Senior Curator, *Autograph ABP*) and **Sophie Wright** (Global Cultural Director, *Magnum Photos*).

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery, London, says: 'What was particularly striking about this year's entries to the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize*, was the variety of approaches, techniques and styles of the photographs submitted from around the world. I hope that the works selected for the shortlist and 2018 exhibition continue to inspire and engage visitors with photographic portraiture today.'

Shane Gleghorn, Managing Partner at Taylor Wessing LLP, says: 'The variety of perspectives that come from the portraits each year is fascinating to see. The passion of these photographers was obvious and striking, as was their ability to capture the essence of the sitter. There were images that could take your breath away. The variety of portraits entered was amazing, encompassing photographs from around the world that displayed a vast range of approaches and techniques, and shots that ranged from the spontaneous to the artfully constructed. This made selecting the shortlist this year even more difficult, but also a great pleasure.'

The prizes for the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2018* will be announced on Tuesday 16 October 2018 at 19.00.

TAYLOR WESSING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2018

18 October 2018 – 27 January 2019

Supported by Taylor Wessing

Admission £6 with donation (concessions £5)

£5 without donation (concessions £4)

npg.org.uk/photoprize

PUBLICATION

A fully illustrated catalogue including all photographs from this year's exhibition features an interview with the *In Focus* photographer Rinko Kawauchi and interviews with the prize-winners by Richard McClure. Paperback. RRP £15.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Taylor Wessing is a full-service international law firm, with more than 1,200 lawyers working with clients in the world's most dynamic industries. We take a single-minded approach to advising our clients, helping them succeed by thinking innovatively about their business issues. Our 33 offices around the world are not token presences – they blend the best of local business, industry and cultural knowledge with international experience to provide astutely commercial solutions for our clients. Our focus on the industries of tomorrow has enabled us to develop market-leading expertise in: Technology, Media and Communications, Life Sciences, Private Wealth and Energy.

Exhibiting Photographers:

Anoush Abrar
Rhiannon Adam
Pedro Alvarez
Meredith Andrews
Richard Ansett
Max Barstow
Shahid Bashir
Enda Bowe
David Brunetti
Maria Konstanse Bruun
Alejandra Carles-Tolra
Nigel Clarke
Michael Clement
Tom Cockram
Dylan Collard
Toby Coulson
Robin de Puy
Vincent Desailly
Guen Fiore
Charlie Forgham-Bailey
Sophie Green
Mohamed Hassan
Erica Hawkins
Adam Hinton
Kovi Konowiecki
Joey Lawrence
Claudia Legge
Kati Leinonen
Kurtiss Aaron Lloyd
Andy Lo Po
Alice Mann
Max Miechowski
Riina Monthan
Eddie Mulholland
Dan Nelken
Colin Pantall
Baud Postma
Phil Sharp
Aline Smithson
Jared Soares
Juan Trujillo Andrades
Carla van de Puttelaar

Muir Vidler
Trisha Ward
Eddie Wrey
Sam Wright
Darrin Zammit Lupi
Francesco Zinno
Alice Zoo

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National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London, WC2H 0HE. Opening hours Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday: 10.00 – 18.00 (Gallery closure commences at 17.50) **Late Opening:** Thursday, Friday: 10.00 – 21.00 (Gallery closure commences at 20.50) **Nearest Underground:** Leicester Square/Charing Cross
Recorded information: 020 7312 2463 **General information:** 020 7306 0055 **Website:** npg.org.uk