

News Release

20.00 Tuesday 16 October 2018

Alice Mann's All-Female Drum Majorette Series Wins the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2018



(From left to right) Wakiesha Titus and Riley Van Harte, Cape Town, South Africa, 2018; Keisha Ncube, Cape Town, South Africa, 2017; Tanique Williams, Cape Town, South Africa, 2018; Taylim Prince, Cape Town, South Africa, 2017 from the series *Drummies* by Alice Mann © Alice Mann; First prize winner, Alice Mann, with her portraits. Photograph by Jorge Herrera.

Alice Mann has won the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2018* for her portrait series on the all-female teams of drum majorettes in South Africa's Western Province. The £15,000 award was presented to the South African photographer at an awards ceremony at the National Portrait Gallery, London on Tuesday 16 October 2018.

For the first time in the competition's history the judges have awarded the first prize to a series of four pictures rather than an individual photograph. Mann spent three months photographing different teams of girls across South Africa's Western Province, beginning at the Dr Van der Ross Primary school in one of the poorer parts of Cape Town. Many of the drum majorettes, or 'drummies', come from South Africa's most disadvantaged communities. 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.

'The images are part of a much larger body of work, which is a combination of a more documentary approach and portraits,' says Mann. 'These four portraits are some of my favourite images, especially the one of Riley and Wakiesha because they are so charismatic. 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'.'

The judges' commented: 'Mann's series is consistent in its evocation of a sustained and intriguing narrative. Each sitter is precisely framed within a carefully considered composition, and the girls confidently meet the camera's gaze. Their pristine and vibrant outfits jar with the rundown surroundings, lending a surreal and enigmatic atmosphere to the portraits.'

The winner of the £3,000 Second Prize is **Enda Bowe** for his photograph of a London mother holding her baby, part of an ongoing collaborative project with Gillian O'Brien entitled *Clapton Blossom* that focuses on the residents of a housing estate in Clapton, east London.

The joint winners of the Third Prize, each receiving £2,000, are **Max Barstow** for his double portrait of a pair of shoppers taken in London and **Joey Lawrence** for his photograph of a child from a remote village in the jungle of Sierra Leone's Eastern Province.

The winning portraits will be on display at the National Portrait Gallery, London as part of the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2018* exhibition from 18 October 2018 to 27 January 2019. While the photographs are judged anonymously from prints this was the second year in which the competition permitted digital entries for the initial sift. 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.

£3,000 Second Prize: Enda Bowe for *Cybil McAddy with daughter Lulu* from the series *Clapton Blossom*.



Cybil McAddy with daughter Lulu from the series **Clapton Blossom** by Enda Bowe 2018 © Enda Bowe; Second prize winner, Enda Bowe with sitter Cybil McAddy. Photograph by Jorge Herrera

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.'

The judges' commented: 'Bowe's tender portrait traces the emotional connection between a new parent and her baby, evoking traditional compositions of a mother and child. Further scrutiny reveals details, including Cybil's piercings, tattoos and adorned nails, which with the urban setting, give a contemporary update to this classical theme.'

£2,000 Joint Third Prize: Max Barstow for *Untitled* from the series *Londoners*.



Untitled from the series **Londoners** by Max Barstow 2017 © Max Barstow; Joint third prize winner Max Barstow with his portrait. Photograph by Jorge Herrera

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.'

The judges' commented: 'This arresting double portrait, with its stark white background, possesses a classic studio aesthetic, isolating the two women from their surroundings in an unexplained tableau. The precision and tonal balance of the composition is all the more remarkable for having been taken in a fleeting moment on a busy London street.'

£2,000 Joint Third Prize: Joey Lawrence for *Portrait of 'Strong' Joe Smart* from the series *Tombo's Wound*.



Portrait of 'Strong' Joe Smart from the series **Tombo's Wound** by Joey Lawrence 2017 © Joey Lawrence; Joint third prize winner Joey Lawrence with his portrait. Photograph by Jorge Herrera

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 a vast amount of time and resources to passion projects which emphasize 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.'

The judges' commented: 'Emerging from a lush palette of green foliage, 'Strong' Joe Smart's expression proves utterly captivating. Lawrence's use of focus draws attention to the young boy's grass headdress, suggesting childhood games. This contrasts with his resolved gaze, of a maturity that belies his age.'

The annual *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize* exhibition 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 competition is in its eleventh year of sponsorship by Taylor Wessing.

The competition judges have no knowledge of the identity of the entrants, and 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. For the fourth time, photographers were encouraged to submit works as a series in addition to stand-alone portraits. For the third year running, the rules also allow photographers to submit photographs on different supports to the competition – to encourage the demonstration of a range of different photographic processes.

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery, London, says: 'Many congratulations to all of the prize-winners and selected photographers for their exceptional portraits. 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 2018 exhibition continue to inspire and engage visitors with photographic portraiture today.'

Shane Gleghorn, Managing Partner at Taylor Wessing LLP, says: "Our huge congratulations to everyone shortlisted in this exceptional exhibition, especially this year's winners. The diversity of perspectives that come from the portraits each year is fascinating to see. There are images that take your breath away. The variety of portraits entered is amazing, encompassing photographs from around the world that display a vast range of approaches and techniques, and shots that range from the spontaneous to the artfully constructed. This made selecting the prize winners this year even more difficult, but also a great pleasure."

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*).

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. *In Focus* is an annual showcase for new work by an internationally renowned photographer.

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.

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SELECTED PORTRAITS (Artist, title, series, location of photographer)

Anoush Abrar **Christopher Walken** Tehran, Iran

Rhiannon Adam **Nan, Hafan Deg Sheltered Scheme, Mid Glamorgan** from the series **Old Age Doesn't Come By Itself** Cork, Ireland

Pedro Alvarez **Katharine Hamnett** Bilbao, Spain

Meredith Andrews **Rishai** from the series **After School** San Jose, California, USA

Richard Ansett **Danel, 7** from the series **Children of Grenfell** England, UK

Richard Ansett **After The Attack, Erin, 12** from the series **After The Attack (The Manchester Bombing)** England, UK

Max Barstow **Untitled** from the series **Londoners** London, UK

Shahid Bashir **Olga** East London, UK

Enda Bowe **Cybil McAddy with Daughter Lulu** from the series **Clapton Blossom** Carlow, Ireland

David Brunetti **Mio Figlio Alfredo** from the series **La Mia Famiglia** Rome, Italy

Maria Konstanse Bruun **Blond Wig and Purple Beret** from the series **Then and In Between Now** Namsos, Norway

Alejandra Carles-Tolra **Untitled (Charlotte, a member of the The Jane Austen Pineapple Appreciation Society)** from the series **Where we Belong** Barcelona, Spain

Nigel Clarke **Grifton** from the series **Perfect Strangers** Wegberg, Germany

Michael Clement **Anti Brexit Protester** Guildford, UK

Tom Cockram **Conor & Levi** from the series **British Boxing** Jersey

Dylan Collard **Kuda** from the series **Ages of Us: UK** High Wycombe, UK

Toby Coulson **Joan Jonas** Long Island, New York, USA

Robin de Puy **Randy #029454** from the series **Randy** Oostflakkee, The Netherlands

Vincent Desailly **Red dawn** from the series **Is this a trap?** Neuilly sur Seine, France

Guen Fiore **Greta and Guenda** Pescara, Italy

Charlie Forgham-Bailey **Moussa from Senegal** from the series **Players of the Danone Nations Cup 2017** London, UK

Charlie Forgham-Bailey **Charlie from England** from the series **Players of the Danone Nations Cup 2017** London, UK

Charlie Forgham-Bailey **John from Ghana** from the series **Players of the Danone Nations Cup 2017** London, UK

Charlie Forgham-Bailey **Genius from the Netherlands** from the series **Players of the Danone Nations Cup 2017** London, UK

Sophie Green **Joshua** from the series **Congregation** London, UK

Mohamed Hassan **Hiraeth (Salih, Sudanese migrant worker in Egypt)** from the series **Souls** Alexandria, Egypt

Erica Hawkins **Chicken Pox** Luton, Bedfordshire, UK

Adam Hinton **Guest at a Graduation party** Kingston-upon-Thames, UK

Kovi Konowiecki **Gary, Cigarette** from the series **The Hawks Come Up Before the Sun** Long Beach, California, USA

Joey Lawrence **Portrait of 'Strong' Joe Smart** from the series **Tombo's Wound** Ontario, Canada

Joey Lawrence **Mayama Mustafa with Jeneba and Nafisatu** from the series **Tombo's Wound** Ontario, Canada

Claudia Legge **Conservation Heroes** from the series **Borana's Unseen Conservationists** London, UK
Kati Leinonen **After mood (self-portrait)** from the series **Äimärautio** Finland
Kurtiss Aaron Lloyd **Charanpreet Singh Lall** Stafford, UK
Andy Lo Pò **Girl Outside the Pizzeria at Night** Melbourne, Australia
Alice Mann **Keisha Ncube, Cape Town, South Africa, 2017** From the series **Drummies** Cape Town, South Africa
Alice Mann **Taylim Prince, Cape Town, South Africa, 2017** From the series **Drummies** Cape Town, South Africa
Alice Mann **Wakiesha Titus and Riley Van Harte, Cape Town, South Africa, 2018** From the series **Drummies** Cape Town, South Africa
Alice Mann **Tanique Williams, Cape Town, South Africa, 2018** From the series **Drummies** Cape Town, South Africa
Max Miechowski **Shantelle** from the series **Burgess Park** Lincoln, England
Riina Monthan **Wounded** from the series **F*** Cancer** Mäntsälä, Finland
Eddie Mulholland **Becoming Michael** London, UK
Dan Nelken **Sarah, Age 13, Carries a five gallon Jerrycan of Water Home Three Times a Day** Tel Aviv, Palestine
Colin Pantall **Isabel in Winter Field, Kent (Broken Hasselblad)** from the series **Broken Camera Pictures** UK
Baud Postma **Perspective One** from the series **In Praise of Shadows** London, UK
Phil Sharp **Louis Tomlinson** from the series **Pop Life** London, UK
Aline Smithson **Melanesia** from the series **Fugue State** Los Angeles, California, USA
Jared Soares **Lawrence** Santa Cruz, California, USA
Juan Trujillo Andrades **Saif** from the series **The Boys of Grenfell** Cadiz, Spain
Carla van de Puttelaar **Portrait of Marta Weiss and her Daughter Penelope** from the series **Artfully Dressed: Women in the Art World** Zaandam
Muir Vidler **The Globe** Edinburgh, UK
Trisha Ward **Eimear** Stirling, Scotland
Eddie Wrey **Mud Cloth** From the series **ADJAMÉ** London, UK
Sam Wright **Runner Up** from the series **Double Jab ABC Show** Sheffield, UK
Darrin Zammit Lupi **Rescued Migrant** from the series **Rescue on the Mediterranean** Malta
Francesco Zinno **Finn** Catania, IT
Alice Zoo **Woman in Blue Cap** from the series **Swimmers** London, England

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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