

News Release

13 August 2019

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY'S TAYLOR WESSING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2019... SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED



From L-R: Neil from the series *Love's Fire Song* by Enda Bowe 2018 © Enda Bowe; *The Hubbucks* from the series *England* by Garrod Kirkwood 2018 © Garrod Kirkwood; *Gail and Beaux*; *Mom (our last one)* from the series *Goldie (Mother)* by Pat Martin 2018 © Pat Martin

Three photographers have been shortlisted for the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2019*, the international photography award organised by the National Portrait Gallery, London, now celebrating twelve years under Taylor Wessing's sponsorship.

The prize-winning portraits include a thoughtful sitter from the Belfast Conway estate; a family ready for their day out on Whitley Bay beach, England; and works from a series depicting the photographer's late mother in Los Angeles.

The annual *Portrait Prize* is one of the most prestigious photography awards in the world and showcases new work 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 New York based photographer Ethan James Green. The prints will form the fifth *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. Green's first monograph 'Young New York' was published by Aperture in March 2019. These striking black and white portraits were made between 2014-2018, focusing on the artist's friends and community, many taken in Corlears Red Hook Park on the Lower East Side. His new series of portraits sees him continue to work with his own generation this time photographing couples. Green mixes personal projects with work as a high profile fashion photographer working for magazines including *Arena Homme +*, *i-D*, *LOVE*, *Self Service*, *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, *Vogue Homme*, *Vogue Italia*, *Vogue Paris*, *Wand* and *WSJ. Magazine*.

The following three photographers have been shortlisted for the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2019*:

Neil from the series *Love's Fire Song* 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 VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art, Ireland.

Bowe's shortlisted work portrays Neil, a young man photographed as part of Bowe's series on the Belfast Conway estate. Bowe says, 'I concentrated on the ordinary, the everyday. The photographs use a saturated colour palette with only subtle symbolisms, and without reference to the specific locations they were taken. Free from political and geographical context, the photographs speak of longing, yearning, aspirations and vulnerabilities of young people in Belfast today.'

***The Hubbucks* from the series *England* by Garrod Kirkwood**

Garrod Kirkwood (29.05.1979) is a British photographer based on the North East coast of England. His work is driven by environment and the people that inhabit it. Kirkwood's shortlisted photograph shows a family of individual personalities, on the cusp of a holiday adventure. Kirkwood says, 'this is a magical moment and portrait of a family and group of individuals that we all can relate to.' Kirkwood describes the photograph, taken in Whitley Bay, England as 'a cinematic scene from real life.'

***Gail and Beaux; Mom (our last one)* from the series *Goldie (Mother)* by Pat Martin**

Pat Martin (10.07.1992) is an American photographer from Los Angeles, California. Martin uses photography to connect with personal memories, while also working to understand his own relationship with time. He sees the present as an opportunity to build upon an empty family album, while also finding new connections through portraiture. Martin's shortlisted works intimately documents his late mother who struggled with addiction issues throughout her life. Martin says, 'For most of my life, I misunderstood my mother and witnessed how the world misunderstood her. Photographing her became a way of looking into a mirror and finding details never noticed. There were always new ones to discover, and something new to hide.'

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 third year of digital entry, the prize-winning photographs and those selected for inclusion in the exhibition were chosen from 3,700 submissions entered by 1,611 photographers from 70 countries. A total of 55 portraits from 31 artists have been selected for display, of which 13 submissions are a series.

This year's judging panel was **Dr Nicholas Cullinan**, Chair (Director, National Portrait Gallery, London); **Elaine Constantine**, Photographer and Film Director; **Shane Gleghorn**, Managing Partner, Taylor Wessing; **Sara Hemming**, Co-Founder & Creative Director NATAAL, **Magda Keaney** (Senior Curator of Photographs, National Portrait Gallery, London) and **Nicola Shipley**, Director GRAIN Projects.

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery, London, says: 'This year's entries to the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize* have shown an outstanding variety of themes and styles on the definition of photographic portraiture. I have been struck by the inspiring and emotive narratives of community and family present in the submissions. Every year *the Prize* demonstrates the outstanding level at which photographers across the world are working and I very much look forward to welcoming visitors to this annual showcase.'

Shane Gleghorn, Managing Partner, Taylor Wessing, says: "As our partnership with the National Portrait Gallery enters its twelfth year, we are very proud to be associated with the talent of the photographers on display. With diverse styles and subjects from 70 countries around the world, judging this year was as challenging as ever, with all the entrants creating fascinating and thought-provoking images. The commitment of the photographers to excellence and creativity is inspirational and I feel sure that visitors to the exhibition will find it incredibly uplifting."

The prizes for the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2019* will be announced on Tuesday 5 November 2019 at 19.00.

TAYLOR WESSING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2019

7 November 2019 – 16 February 2020

Supported by Taylor Wessing

Full price tickets from £6

Concessions from £5

npg.org.uk/photoprize

PUBLICATION

A fully illustrated paperback catalogue will be published to accompany this exhibition. The catalogue will include all photographs from this year's exhibition and feature interviews with the In Focus photographer Ethan James Green and the prizewinners by Richard McClure. RRP £15.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Taylor Wessing is a leading full-service international law firm with over 350 partners and 1100 lawyers in 19 jurisdictions around the world. We work with clients in the most dynamic industries helping them succeed by thinking innovatively about their business issues. Our focus on the industries of tomorrow has enabled us to develop market-leading expertise in: Technology, Media and Communications, Life Sciences and Healthcare, Private Wealth and Energy.

Exhibiting Photographers:

Evelyn Natalia Bencicova
Enda Bowe
Maria Konstanse Bruun
Reme Campos
Rory Doyle
Jermaine Francis
Amy Friend
Chris Hoare
Catherine Hyland
Marcin Jozefiak
Piotr Karpinski
Garrod Kirkwood
Kovi Konowiecki
Vikram Kushwah
Jenny Lewis
Alex Llopis Cardona
Pat Martin
Mark McEvoy
Rebecca Naen
Jouk Oosterhof
Sirli Raitma
Seamus Ryan
Phil Sharp
Dominick Sheldon
Aline Smithson
Cheryle St. Onge
Tristan Still
Jack Taylor Gotch
Amy Touchette
Snezhana von Buedingen
Oded Wagenstein

9 Countries - UK: 17, US: 7, Netherlands: 1, Australia: 1, Israel: 1, Canada: 1, Germany: 1, Spain: 1, Slovakia: 1

For further Press information and image requests please contact:

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National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London, WC2H 0HE. Opening hours Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday: 10.00 – 18.00 (Gallery closure commences at 17.50) **Late Opening:** 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