

Press Release

Tuesday 28 July 2020

National Portrait Gallery Calls for Entries to Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2020

Exhibition will be displayed online in November 2020



Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2019 prize winners L-R: First prize winner **Gail and Beaux** from the series **Goldie (Mother)** by Pat Martin, 2018 © Pat Martin; Second prize winner **Neil** from the series **Love's Fire Song** by Enda Bowe 2018 © Enda Bowe; Third prize winner **The Hubbucks** from the series **England** by Garrod Kirkwood, 2018 © Garrod Kirkwood

Entry is now open for the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2020*, the international photographic portrait competition, which celebrates and promotes the very best in contemporary portrait photography. The National Portrait Gallery, London is inviting submissions from **Tuesday 28 July until 17.00 on Tuesday 22 September 2020**

This year's prize will be displayed as a virtual exhibition on the National Portrait Gallery's website, in order to reach a wide international audience and ensure that the competition is able to continue as planned during the current Coronavirus pandemic. The photographs will be displayed in a virtual gallery space that replicates the rooms of the National Portrait Gallery, enabling online visitors to view the portraits collectively, as well as exploring each individual work in more detail. The popular People's Pick feature, which offers the public the opportunity to vote for their favourite portrait will also run online. The National Portrait Gallery building in London is now closed until spring 2023, while essential building works take place on the Gallery's *Inspiring People* redevelopment.

The competition is open to everyone aged 18 and over from around the world. Photographers are encouraged to interpret 'portrait' in its widest sense, with 'photography focused on portraying people with an emphasis on their identity as individuals.' The winner of the competition will receive £15,000, with second prize receiving £3,000 and third prize £2,000.

The National Portrait Gallery's *Photographic Portrait Prize*, sponsored by international law firm Taylor Wessing since 2008, is one of the most competitive photography awards in the world and showcases the work of some of the most exciting and cutting-edge contemporary photographers. Since the international competition began in 1993, it has established a reputation for creativity and excellence, with works submitted by a range of photographers, from leading professionals to talented amateurs and the most exciting emerging artists.

The *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2019* exhibition featured 55 portraits from 31 artists and was seen by over 42,000 people at the National Portrait Gallery.

In order to ensure the safety of panel members and Gallery staff, judging for the 2020 competition will be completed digitally. To enter the competition photographers are required to upload their image(s) via the website. All images will be viewed anonymously and digitally by a panel of judges who will collectively select the prize winners and works for exhibition.

For the sixth year running, entrants to the competition are being encouraged to submit works as a series – either a group of individual portraits based on a particular theme, or two or more photographs that form a single portrait when shown together – in addition to stand-alone portraits. One series of photographs submitted to the competition may be chosen by the judges to be exhibited in its entirety.

Also for the sixth year running, there will be an *In Focus* display within the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize* virtual exhibition devoted to the work of distinguished photographers, but not part of the competition. This accolade has been awarded to Pieter Hugo in 2015, Cristina de Middel in 2016, Todd Hido in 2017, Rinko Kawauchi in 2018 and Ethan James Green in 2019.

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery said: "I am pleased that we are able to continue with this year's *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize*, despite the extraordinary circumstances. I hope that by displaying the exhibition online we will be able to share the very best in contemporary portrait photography with audiences across the world, many of whom would not ordinarily have the opportunity to visit the exhibition in London."

Shane Gleghorn, Managing Partner at Taylor Wessing, said: "This is the thirteenth year of the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize*. By delivering the exhibition virtually this year, the NPG has provided the best possible opportunity for artists around the world to enter and share their fantastic work. We are pleased that, despite the challenge of the crisis, the photographers will have an opportunity to exhibit their work in a way that enables the public to see creativity flourishing. We are looking forward to seeing the talent and entries that will emerge from this latest exhibition."

The competition is open to anyone over the age of 18. To reflect the change in format the entry fee for the 2020 exhibition has been reduced to £20. Full information about how to enter, including entry forms and rules, can be found online at npg.org.uk/photoprize.

TAYLOR WESSING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2020

Tuesday 24 November 2020

Supported by Taylor Wessing

www.npg.org.uk/photoprize

Entries accepted from Tuesday 28 July - Deadline for submissions: 17.00 Tuesday 22 September 2020.

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National Portrait Gallery

The National Portrait Gallery was founded in 1856 to encourage through portraiture the appreciation and understanding of the people who have made and are making British history and culture. Today it promotes engagement with portraiture in all media to a wide-ranging public by conserving, growing and sharing the world's largest collection of portraits.

www.npg.org.uk

Inspiring People

Inspiring People is the National Portrait Gallery's biggest ever development since the building in St Martin's Place opened in 1896. The project, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund will see a transformed National Portrait Gallery, including a comprehensive re-display and re-interpretation of the Gallery's Collection from the Tudors to now across 40 refurbished galleries, combined with a complete refurbishment of the building, restoring historic features, creating a new and more welcoming visitor entrance and public forecourt on the building's North Façade, and enhancing the Gallery's accessibility.

The designs by Jamie Fobert Architects, working in partnership with Purcell, will also see the return of the Gallery's East Wing to public use as the new Weston Wing, including restoring the original gallery spaces, the creation of new retail and catering facilities and its own dedicated entrance at street level; and a new Learning Centre for visitors of all ages with studios, breakout spaces and high quality practical facilities. The Gallery's existing entrance will also remain, with new step-free access.

In order to complete the project efficiently and to safeguard visitors, members of staff and the Collection, the Gallery in St Martin's Place will temporarily close to the public from 29 June 2020 until spring 2023, while essential building works take place. During this time the Gallery will share its unique Collection of portraits with the nation in a major programme of activities across the UK, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and a major new grant from Art Fund. Beginning in 2020, this ambitious nationwide programme will show hundreds of works from the National Portrait Gallery's Collection, some of which are rarely loaned, through a series of partnerships and collaborations during the period of redevelopment.

Taylor Wessing is a global law firm that serves the world's most innovative people and businesses. Deeply embedded within our sectors, we work closely together with our clients to crack complex problems, enabling ideas and aspirations to thrive. Creative thinking is at the heart of our culture and we see art as an important instrument of change. Together with our people and community partners, we seek to challenge expectation and create extraordinary results.

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