

## News Release

Wednesday 21 April 2021

### **National Portrait Gallery to Stage Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2021 at Cromwell Place Arts Hub**

*Gallery announces plans for new physical exhibition as it calls for entries for  
the 2021 prize.*



Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2020 prize winners L-R: First prize winner *Samuel* from the series *Lost Summer* by Alys Tomlinson © Alys Tomlinson; Second prize winner *Eden* by Lydia Goldblatt © Lydia Goldblatt; Third prize winner *Enam Ewura Adjoa Asiana* by Yolanda Y. Liou © Yolanda Y. Liou

The National Portrait Gallery is to stage the ***Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2021*** exhibition at **Cromwell Place**, a new arts hub in South Kensington, London from the **10 November 2021 until 2 January 2022**, while the Gallery's building in St Martin's Place is closed until 2023 for major redevelopment works. The announcement comes as the Gallery invites submissions for the international photographic portrait competition from **Wednesday 21 April until 17.00 on Tuesday 8 June 2021**.

The exhibition at Cromwell Place will be the first new major exhibition staged exclusively by the National Portrait Gallery since works began on the Gallery's transformational [Inspiring People](#) project in summer 2020. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2020* was shown as a virtual exhibition on the Gallery's website. During closure, the Gallery has organised a number of exhibitions in partnership with other museums and galleries, including *Cecil Beaton's Bright Young Things* at Sheffield's Millennium Gallery and *Tudors to Windsors: British Royal Portraits* at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, both due to open in May this year. The

Gallery is also continuing to loan portraits through a major programme of activities across the UK, including the *Coming Home* initiative, which sees portraits of iconic individuals from the Collection traveling to the towns and cities most closely associated with their subjects.

The *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize* celebrates and promotes the very best in contemporary portrait photography. 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 2020* was won by Alys Tomlinson for *Lost Summer*, her series of black and white portraits of London school leavers dressed up for their proms, which were cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Second prize was awarded to Lydia Goldblatt for *Eden*, a portrait of her young daughter alone in her garden during lockdown. Yolanda Y. Liou was awarded third prize for her portrait of model, plus size advocate and Instagram influencer, *Enam Ewura Adjoa Asiama*. The online exhibition featured 54 portraits from 37 different artists and was viewed by over 135,000 users.

To enter the 2021 competition photographers are required to upload their image(s) via the [website](#). All images will be viewed anonymously by a panel of judges who will collectively select the prize winners and works for exhibition.

For the seventh 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.

**Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery said:** "We are delighted to be able to stage this year's Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize in a new gallery space at Cromwell Place and to once again be able to offer our visitors the opportunity to view the exhibition in person. Despite the challenging circumstances, we have seen some extraordinary portrait photography emerge from across the world during these unprecedented times and I look forward to seeing this year's entries."

**Shane Gleghorn, Managing Partner at Taylor Wessing,** said: "The Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize continues to inspire photographers throughout the world and we're looking forward to seeing the new entries this year. For many years, working together with the National Portrait Gallery, we have helped to create a platform that showcases the best in photographic talent, and staging this year's exhibition at a new gallery space at Cromwell Place will be a fillip in what has been a challenging year.

**May Calil, Membership Director at Cromwell Place, said:** “We are proud to be partnering with our Honorary Member, the National Portrait Gallery, to present the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize 2021. It is a great honour to support this esteemed institution and to celebrate the work of inspiring international photographers in this exhibition. “

The entry fee for the competition will remain at the new lower rate of £20, introduced in 2020. Full information about how to enter, including entry forms and rules, can be found online at [npg.org.uk/photoprize](http://npg.org.uk/photoprize)

**TAYLOR WESSING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT PRIZE 2021 at [Cromwell Place](#)**

10 November 2021 until 2 January 2022\*

*Supported by Taylor Wessing*

[www.npg.org.uk/photoprize](http://www.npg.org.uk/photoprize)

*\*opening hours and ticket prices to be confirmed*

**Entries accepted from Wednesday 21 April. Deadline for submissions: 17.00 Tuesday 8 June 2021.**

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **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](http://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 has temporarily closed 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.

**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.

### **Cromwell Place**

Cromwell Place is a Membership organisation offering a first-of-its-kind exhibition and working space in central London, located in the heart of South Kensington's museum district and housed within five Grade II listed townhouses.

Designed in 1858 by Sir Charles James Freake, the buildings contain 15 unique gallery spaces, permanent and shared offices, open desks, meeting rooms and viewing rooms, and the Club Room. Additional services include access to Temporary Admission and Custom Warehouse Status.

Cromwell Place is home to some of the world's most exciting galleries, collectors, dealers and advisors: with specialities ranging from Antiquities and Old Masters through to Contemporary Art. Membership is open to those who can demonstrate a high standard of curatorial and professional competence.