

RED BERET

THOMAS ARTHURTON (b.1985)

Oil on canvas

Born in Norwich, Thomas Arthurton studied history of art at the University of York and Courtauld Institute of Art before studying painting at the Florence Classical Arts Academy and St Petersburg State Academic Institute of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture, where he is currently enrolled as a student specialising in portraiture.

The portrait is of Arthurton's fellow artist, Liza. The sittings took place in the attic of the St Petersburg Academy of Fine Arts, which is a communal space for all students. Painted during the dark winter evenings, the portrait was completed by artificial light with the red beret creating a focal point and highlight. Arthurton says some parts are deliberately unfinished 'so that the painting is like a memory in which parts fade whilst at the same time remembering what is essential.'

DAPHNE, HARINGEY RESIDENT

TIM BENSON (b.1978)

Oil on canvas

Tim Benson studied at Glasgow School of Art and Byam Shaw School of Art. Since 2011, his work has been frequently selected for the annual exhibitions of the New English Art Club, the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and the *Discerning Eye*. He is currently President of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters. Benson was previously included in the BP Portrait Award in 2012. The portrait is of the artist's friend, Daphne.

UNTITLED

ROBERT BOSISIO (b.1963)

Oil on board

Born in Italy, Robert Bosisio studied painting at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna and won a scholarship from the Province of Bolzano to study in New York. His work has been seen in numerous solo exhibitions in Germany, Italy, Austria and Japan.

The sitter is a young man of African heritage who has Albinism, an inherited condition resulting in a lack of pigmentation in the eyes, skin and hair. The artist met the sitter while on a trip to Kenya where he found that those with Albinism may be persecuted or regarded as sacred because of their appearance which can be equally dangerous for their personal safety as passers-by attempt to touch them or take items of their clothing as lucky charms.

GIRL AT A TABLE (LUCY)

SIMON THOMAS BRAIDEN (b.1971)

Oil on panel

Simon Thomas Braiden is a self-taught artist whose work has been seen in exhibitions in London, Manchester and Edinburgh and is held in collections, including that of the Groucho Club. He is a member of Manchester Academy of Fine Art and was previously included in the BP Portrait Award in 2018.

The portrait is of Lucy, whom Braiden met through a mutual friend. She agreed to sit for her portrait and the sittings took place at the artist's studio. He says: 'Lucy arrived wearing a beautifully patterned summer dress that complimented the Prussian blue walls of the room.'

SELF-PORTRAIT

PATRICIA BUCKLEY (b.1947)

Oil on canvas

Patricia Buckley undertook a BA (Hons) degree in fine art (painting) at Kingston University. Her work has been selected for inclusion in the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts on nine occasions since 1979 and has also been chosen for the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize and the Discerning Eye exhibitions. Her work was seen in the Photographic Portrait Prize at the National Portrait Gallery in 1998.

The artist wanted to express both her character and age in her self-portrait. Her profession is symbolised by the brushes she holds and the background, which is her painting of the riverside of the Thames seen in autumn.

SIR LENNY HENRY

MARTYN BURDON (b.1981)

Acrylic on board

Martyn Burdon studied art at A level but is otherwise self taught, having gained a BSc (Hons) degree in Product Design from Brunel University. His work was selected for inclusion in the Derwent Art Prize (2018), Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize (2019) and was previously seen in the BP Portrait Award in 2017.

The portrait is of Sir Lenny Henry, whose career includes acting, writing, comedy and television presenting. His recent campaign for equality in the arts has led to Birmingham City University creating the Sir Lenny Henry Centre for Media Diversity, which will look at representation across the industry including journalism, acting, film, TV and radio in both front-of-house and behind the scenes roles. The artist contacted Henry to request a portrait sitting after seeing him in the Theatre Royal Stratford East's production of August Wilson's play *King Hedley II*.

LOUIS, BIX AND JOHN

JOHN BURKE (b.1956)

Oil on panel

John Burke gained a BA (Hons) degree in Graphic Design from St Martins School of Art, and ran a design business in London, before returning to study by taking a course at the Royal Drawing School in 2003. His work is held in collections in the UK, USA and the Republic of Ireland and has been seen the annual exhibitions of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. He was previously included in the BP Portrait Award in 2017.

The portrait is of the artist's friend, John, whom he met at drawing classes. John would share anecdotes of his work in the advertising industry and his love of jazz music. It was fitting that he should be portrayed flanked by images of his musical favourites, Louis Armstrong and Bix Beiderbecke.

PATERSON JOSEPH

STEVE CALDWELL (b.1971)

Acrylic on board

Steve Caldwell undertook foundation studies at Wirral Metropolitan College followed by an HND in medical illustration at North East Wales Institute. His work has been seen in the annual exhibitions of the Society of Portrait Painters, the Royal Society of British Artists and the RBSA Portrait Prize Exhibition, being a triple prize winner in 2013. He was previously included in the BP Portrait Award in 2014, 2015 and 2020.

The portrait is of the artist's friend, the actor Paterson Joseph who agreed to sit for his portrait. Caldwell says: 'I aimed to produce a naturalistic, unaffected work using a high level of detail to describe both Paterson's thoughtfulness and strong physical presence.'

BEVIS

CLARE CEPRYNSKI CIEKAWY (b.1969)

Oil on canvas

Clare Ceprynski Ciekawy gained a BA (Hons) degree in history of art from University College, London before undertaking a BA (Hons) in fine art at Central Saint Martins College followed by an MA at Goldsmiths College. Her paintings and drawings have been in group exhibitions in London.

The portrait is of the artist's partner, Bevis, and is the second fully realised portrait that she has made of him. Ceprynski Ciekawy was keen to learn more about working in oil paint and says: 'It is beginning to hone in on elements that intrigue me about figurative painting, particularly the use of shadows to develop a painting's narrative. They are like the medium of paint itself, always moving, distorting, developing, creating space for thoughts.'

MARY RATCLIFFE

SHONA CHEW (b.1962)

Oil on linen

Shona Chew is a largely self-taught artist who has attended painting and drawing classes as a mature student. Her work has been seen in exhibitions including those of the Society of Women Artists, the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and the Essex Open Exhibition, having won best in show in 2016. She was previously included in the BP Portrait Award in 2018.

The portrait is of textile artist and designer, Mary Ratcliffe, whom Chew met at a Textile Fair where she gave a talk on her work.

Chew asked if she would sit for a portrait with some of her textile creations. Chew says: 'I was keen to paint the vibrant mix of colours, shapes and lines created by the figure in the foreground and the more vertical patterns in the background.'

PORTRAIT OF FATIMA

JAMIE CORETH (b.1989)

Oil on linen

Jamie Coreth gained a BA in Archaeology and Anthropology from Oxford University followed by studying at Florence Academy of Art and the London Atelier of Representational Art. His work has been seen in group exhibitions in London and Italy and was previously selected for BP Portrait Award in 2016, winning the BP Young Artist Award, and 2018.

The portrait is of the artist's friend, Fatima, whom Coreth met when she modelled for a drawing class he was teaching. Coreth was impressed by her determination to overcome the difficulties she has faced to become an artist. Fatima is now studying painting and portraiture and Coreth says: 'I wanted to convey her personal strength by posing her in a bold posture with striking colours and contrasting tones.'

ELLIE

GARY CRAIG (b.1951)

Oil on board

Gary Craig is a self-taught artist whose work has been seen in numerous exhibitions at the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, The Royal Glasgow Institute of The Fine Arts and Mall Galleries, London for the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. His work is frequently selected for inclusion in the Paisley Art Institute Exhibition, Glasgow, winning the John Green Fine Art Prize in 2012 and the Karl Stern Award for Creative Portraiture in 2015.

The portrait is of the artist's daughter, Ellie. It shows her in a relaxed stance on a trip home to Galloway to visit her parents from her home in London. He says: 'The pose is typical of Ellie when she is standing in conversation or thought. The advantage of painting someone you know is that it is so much easier to capture their essence.'

SELF-PORTRAIT

(OUTSIDE LOOKING INWARD)

KEVIN M.A. CUNNINGHAM (b.1964)

Acrylic on canvas

Kevin M.A. Cunningham gained a BA (Hons) degree in illustration from Duncan of Jordanstone School of Art, Dundee. His work has been seen in the annual exhibitions of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and the Royal Scottish Academy, and he had his first solo exhibition in London in 2008. Cunningham was previously selected for the BP Portrait Award in 1994, 1995 and 2003, winning second prize in 1997.

The self-portrait is described by the artist as a depiction of the loneliness of working as an artist. Through the open windows, the viewer can see some of Cunningham's 'most treasured items'. His easel was a gift from his parents and he regards the portrait as 'an homage to my artistic heroes, Vincent van Gogh, Michelangelo and Vermeer'.

ME AND MY SON

PARMEN DAUSHVILI (b.1970)

Oil on canvas

Parmen Daushvili is a self-taught artist whose work has been seen in the annual exhibitions of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, the Royal Society of British Artists and the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition. He was previously selected for inclusion in the BP Portrait Award in 2014.

The portrait of the artist with his son, Andria, marks a difficult period in their life following Daushvili's divorce from Andria's mother. The domestic upheaval resulted in Daushvili and Andria living in temporary accommodation and facing financial hardship. Andria was dressed for school when it occurred to the artist that this might be the last chance to paint a large portrait. He says: 'I am pointing at him because I am proud of him. The map of London signifies the city that gave us shelter in 2013.'

KITTY, THE TEENAGE BAKER

MARK DRAISEY (b.1962)

Oil on linen

Mark Draisey undertook a BA (Hons) degree in illustration at Brighton Polytechnic and worked as an illustrator, caricaturist and cartoonist before becoming a portrait painter. His work has been seen in the annual exhibitions of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and the Royal Institute of Oil Painters. He was elected a member of the Oxford Art Society in 2019.

The portrait is of the artist's acquaintance, Kitty. He says: 'I first became aware of her in 2019 when, at the age of fourteen, she opened a pop-up bakery selling her home baked sourdough loaves and buns. Working with her father, they managed to raise the money to open a shop in South Oxfordshire through crowd funding, and every day they're open, the stock completely sells out.'

ALEXANDER NILERE, KILBURN

PETER JAMES FIELD (b.1976)

Oil on panel

Peter James Field undertook a BA (Hons) degree in the history of art and architecture at UEA Norwich and a BA (Hons) degree in illustration at the University of Brighton. His work has been seen in group and solo exhibitions in London, Brighton and Edinburgh. He was previously selected for inclusion in the BP Portrait Award in 2018.

The portrait is of Alex, whom the artist met at a wedding some ten years ago. Alex had been a pop singer in a successful band and made his own colourful and dandyish suits. However, Field was struck by his generosity and ego-free personality. The sittings took place at Alex's flat, they quickly agreed on a natural pose with the addition of the flower to balance the composition.

FATHER AND CHILD

VANESSA GARWOOD (b.1982)

Oil on canvas

Vanessa Garwood studied at the Charles H. Cecil Studios, Florence as well as studying with the South African sculptor, Dylan Lewis. Garwood's work has been seen in group and solo exhibitions in London and was previously selected for the BP Portrait Award in 2006, 2018 and 2019. In 2019 she worked with Royal Ballet choreographer and dancer Valentino Zucchetti on a live painting and dancing performance 'Dancing lines', performed in the Paul Hamlyn Hall at the Royal Opera House.

For this portrait commission, Garwood reflected on her own childhood and family relationships. She says: 'The gaze of the girl in the painting is the centre of the composition and I wanted to build an image that reflected their closeness but also a realistic, busy and domestic scene.'

AND YOU BETTER START SWIMMIN' OR YOU'LL SINK LIKE A STONE

KRISTIAN HAGERUP (b.1989)

Oil on canvas

Kristian Hagerup studied classical painting at Christiania Kunstakademi in Oslo. Working mainly to private commission, his work has been seen in group exhibitions in Oslo.

The portrait is of Arve, who has not been painted before, and is the husband of Hagerup's mother. The bags and sheeting that form the background are a commentary on the plastic pollution that has affected the world's oceans. The artist says: 'In a short time, we have made a mark unlike any previous generation. Arve lives a quiet life, preferring to do things the way they have always been done. He is being told that change is necessary, but finds it demanding.'

KUMBA

MOSES HAMBORG (b.1995)

Oil on canvas

Moses Hamborg studied at the Florence Academy of Art Drawing and Painting and has most recently graduated from the Charles H. Cecil Studios, Florence.

The portrait is of Kumba, a neighbour of the artist in Sierra Leone where he has moved with his partner to live closer to her family. As they asked friends and relatives if they would be willing to sit for portraits, it occurred to Hamborg that they had started a series of depictions of Kumba's family. Hamborg says: 'There was a quality of timidity to her, that feeling of uncertainty about the future that one has in adolescence, but she carried herself with a relaxed and balanced sense of dignity – it was calming.'

OSUN WUMI

CHRISTOPHER HANSON (b.1980)

Oil on canvas

Christopher Hanson undertook a BA (Hons) degree in Fine Art at University of West England, Bristol followed by study at Northbrook College, Worthing and the London Atelier of Representational Art. His work has been seen in group exhibitions in London and Nottingham.

The portrait is of the artist's friend Osun. The artist says: 'Osun is a priestess of the Yoruba traditional Orisha faith. She would often visit my mother's house and saw my art displayed on the walls. She asked if I would be interested in painting her and I was more than happy to. In the portrait, Osun is looking down towards her calabash pot which was given to her when she was initiated into her faith, dressed in white to represent the height of her spirituality.'

MY BROTHER, RONNIE

STEVEN HIGGINSON (b.1982)

Oil on board

Steven Higginson undertook a BA (Hons) degree in fine art painting and drawing at Duncan of Jordanstone College, Dundee. His work has been seen in numerous exhibitions in galleries in Aberdeen, Dundee and the Scottish Portrait Awards 2017–9 seen in Glasgow and Edinburgh. He was previously selected for inclusion in the BP Portrait Award in 2019.

The portrait is of the artist's brother, Ronnie. Higginson says: 'This was made just before Ronnie turned thirty. I've unintentionally made him look more childlike than his true age, and feel this is because he was still a child when I left home and moved to another city to study. I found that memories from our childhood were as much a reference as the sitting itself.'

RELATIONSHIP

HONGSHU LEI (b.1992)

Oil on canvas

Hongshu Lei undertook a BA at Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fu Jian Province, China and recently completed an MFA at the Academy of Art University, San Francisco, United States. Her work has been seen in group shows and a solo exhibition in San Francisco.

The portrait is of a couple the artist saw at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. She says: 'What attracted me the most was the way they accompanied each other. Although they were sitting together, they each paid attention to what they were interested in. I saw two individual worlds in the front of me and this reminded me that two figures can express "solitude" as well as company.'

MID-SHIFT

THOMAS LEVERITT (b.1976)

Oil on linen

Thomas Leveritt gained an MA (Hons) in history from Cambridge University. His literary work won the Betty Trask Award for a first novel (2007) and the Somerset Maugham Award for literature (2008). Leveritt's paintings have been seen in exhibitions including those of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, winning the Carroll Medal in 2000 and was previously selected for the BP Portrait Award in 1999, 2000, 2007.

The portrait is of the artist's friend Emily, a midwife at James Paget University Hospital, and her colleague, Funmi. At the time of painting, during winter 2019-20, the artist wanted to capture the effect of stress on individual health workers that was routine for a hospital within the National Health Service. Since the global Covid-19 pandemic, that pressure has increased exponentially.

MARIA ANTONIA IN THE MEAM GALLERY

SHUANG LIU (b.1981)

Oil on linen

Shuang Liu studied at the school of fine arts, Shanghai University receiving a master's degree and is a member of the Shanghai Artists Association. His figurative portraits have been in numerous national and international exhibitions and competitions including the Portrait Society of America's International Portrait Competition.

The portrait is of Maria Antonia, a professional model, whom Shuang Liu met when they both participated in the TIAC invitation exhibition Beyond Language - Figurative Painting in China at the MEAM (Museum of European Art), Barcelona in 2019. The artist was keen to depict Maria's role as both a model and a viewer of the art at the exhibition by showing her surrounded by easels.

MARRIAGE

JENNIFER MCRAE (b.1959)

Oil on linen

Jennifer McRae gained a BA (Hons) degree in fine art painting from Grays School of Art, Aberdeen. Her work has been seen in solo exhibitions in the USA and UK and on numerous occasions in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, and the Worshipful Society of Painter-Stainers exhibition winning the gold medal in 2019. Her work was previously included in the BP Portrait Award in 2009 and 2011, winning the Travel Award in 1999. Her portraits of Michael Frayn, Thelma Holt, Leonard Manasseh and Baroness Rebuck are in the Collection of the National Portrait Gallery.

The double portrait is of the artist and her husband, David, with the studio forming a third presence. The work required planning for the sittings to coincide with David's own work schedule, but takes inspiration from Old Master artist self-portraits such as Diego Velázquez's appearance in *Las Meninas*.

CURTLY THOMAS

MARY MILLNER (b.1960)

Oil on canvas

Mary Millner had studied at the London Art School at the start of her career and returned to education to take a course at the Royal Drawing School in 2004. Her work has been seen in exhibitions including the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize and the Jerwood Drawing Prize and is held in private and public collections including those of Westminster Abbey and the Science Museum.

The portrait is of the stylist and South London personality Curtly Thomas. Thomas is widely recognised for his choice of wearing historical costume every day. The artist and sitter were introduced by mutual friends and discovered a shared interest in dressing up and costume. Thomas wears a velvet frock coat from the wardrobe department of the National Theatre.

LOLA FLASH

SARAH JANE MOON (b.1982)

Oil on canvas

Sarah Jane Moon gained a BA (Hons) degree in visual arts theory and curatorial practice at the University of Western Australia and undertook studies at the Heatherley School of Fine Art, London. Moon's work has been seen internationally in the exhibition *Queer Art(ists) Now*, the annual exhibitions of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and was previously included in the BP Portrait Award in 2019.

The portrait is of the photographer, Lola Flash, whose work has been at the forefront of visual politics for over three decades, challenging gender, sexual and racial stereotypes. Moon says: 'I felt a huge amount of respect and admiration for Flash. On meeting her, she agreed to be painted and so I arranged an initial sitting in New York where she is based. I wanted the portrait to celebrate her as a working queer artist.'

SELF AND FINN

FRANCIS MOSLEY (b.1957)

Oil on canvas

Francis Mosley undertook a BSc in biology University of Sussex and studied illustration at Brighton Art College. His work has been seen in exhibitions in Bath including as part of the Bath open studios festival.

The self-portrait shows both the artist and his dog. When planning the work, Mosley was inspired by the portraits of Diego Velázquez, showing Spanish royalty and the aristocracy, dressed for hunting in the landscapes of their estates. Mosley says: 'I thought that it would be interesting to see how such an ennobling portrayal would look today. I had the noble dog, a deerhound lurcher, adapted the noble pose with a stick and the grand estate was my small garden in Bath.'

SHARMADEAN REID

CHARLES MOXON (b.1990)

Oil on board

Charles Moxon undertook a BA (Hons) degree in painting at Camberwell College of Arts, University of the Arts, London. Working largely to commission in New York and London, his portrait sitters include Harriet Harman MP, the athlete Colin Jackson and footballer Roy Bentley. His work was previously included in the BP Portrait Award in 2016.

This portrait is of Sharmadean Reid, the British entrepreneur who founded WAH nails, who was awarded an MBE in 2015 for services to the nail and beauty industry. Moxon wanted the position of her hands in the portrait to suggest the source of her business success, while drawing inspiration from Hans Holbein's portraits of European merchants of the 16th century.

UNDER THE LIGHT

STEFAN NANDANCEE (b.1972)

Acrylic on board

Stefan Nandancee studied drawing and illustration at the Academie Royale des Beaux-Arts of Brussels. His work has been seen in group and solo exhibitions in Belgium, London and France.

The portrait is of the artist's wife, Joelle and was made from life from a series of sittings over seven months in 2019. Nandancee says of his practice: 'Jo and I have been working over seven intense months cloistered in our studio using all the tools we had at our disposal to magnify every tiny detail of Jo's skin, strands of hair and the folds of her clothes. We were possessed by a delusional ambition to transform her transient being into something more durable than time itself.'

JOEL, BROOKLYN, SUMMER 2019

GONZALO ORQUÍN (b.1982)

Oil on canvas

Gonzalo Orquín studied fine arts at the University of Seville followed by a period of study at the Accademia Pietro Vanucci, Perugia, Italy. His work has been seen in group and solo exhibitions in Italy, Mexico and Spain and in publications including the *Art Newspaper*, *Le Figarò* and *Repubblica*. In 2019 he undertook a residency at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome.

The portrait is of Joel, whom the artist met while on a trip to New York. He made some sketches of the effects of the sun at twilight, with soft shadows cast from a table lamp, and took reference photographs while Joel held the pose. Orquín says: 'When I returned to Rome, I immediately started working on the painting while I still held the memory of the evening.'

THE EDGE OF EVENING (CHRONOLOGY OF DISUNION)

SARA PEDIGO (b.1981)

Oil on panel

Sara Pedigo undertook a BA fine art at Flagler College, St. Augustine, Florida. and an MFA in painting at the University of Massachusetts. She is Professor and Chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, at Flagler College. Her work has been seen in numerous group and juried exhibitions in the United States including selection for the 2006 Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition Exhibition, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC. During 2020 she was Artist-in-Residence at Barton College, Wilson, NC.

This self-portrait combines an evening view through the window revealing the interior of Pedigo's studio with the surface reflection of the outside world. She says: 'Painting on top of an existing interior, as I worked, moments of the original work visually merged with the new image. The final self-portrait is the accumulation of multiple evenings in the studio over three months.'

PAE YUN SOK

LAURA QUINN HARRIS (b.1984)

Oil on board

Laura Quinn Harris studied mathematics before gaining a BA (Hons) degree in Scientific and Natural History Illustration at Blackpool and the Fylde School of Art and Design. She was a finalist in the BBC Wildlife Artist of the Year (2010 and 2014), a runner-up in the Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year 2014 and winner of the People's Choice at the RBSA Prize, 2017. She was previously selected for the BP Portrait Award in 2017.

The portrait is of Pae Yun Sok, a worker at the Hungnam Fertiliser Complex in North Korea, part of an ongoing series about North Korea on which the artist is currently working. She says: 'After extensive negotiations with officials, I was able to arrange sittings with a variety of people from a cross-section of society when I visited the country in 2018. I am hoping that, by exploring different faces of the country, I will be able to provide a glimpse into the lives of its citizens.'

DEREK BLAKE WITH PARKINSON'S
JOHN ANTHONY RICHARDSON (b.1961)
Oil on board

John Anthony Richardson studied at Chelsea School of Art, Goldsmiths College and the Royal Academy Schools, London. His work has been seen in group exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Arts and the National Theatre.

The portrait is of the artist's long-term friend Derek Blake. Blake is a successful restaurateur and bar owner, having established the Mango Room Caribbean restaurant in Camden among other venues. Since Blake's diagnosis with Parkinson's Disease, Richardson has on occasion needed to look after his friend, he says: 'Despite all the physical limitations and periods of paralysis he never complained and his mind was as insightful and humorous as it ever was.'

'I DO, I UNDO, I REDO' NICOLA HICKS MBE

JAMIE ROUTLEY (b.1982)

Oil on canvas

Jamie Routley gained a BA (Hons) degree in illustration from Swindon College followed by four years' study at the Charles H. Cecil Studios, Florence. His work has been seen in the annual exhibitions of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, winning the De Lazlo Foundation Award in 2017, the Columbia Threadneedle Prize and the Ruth Borchard Self-portrait Prize (2019). He was previously included in the BP Portrait Award in 2012, winning the Young Artist Prize, and 2013.

The portrait is of the artist's friend, the sculptor Nicola Hicks. The sittings took place in both Routley and Hicks's studios with Hicks in her working clothes. The title is a reference to the work of the French sculptor, Louise Bourgeois, but is equally applicable to Hicks's own practice.

HEAVY(WEIGHT), PORTRAIT OF BENJAMIN GASINGA GASPARD – RWANDA PAPAY SOLOMON (b.1993)

Oil on linen

Papay Solomon undertook a BFA degree at Arizona State University, School of Art, Tempe, AZ. His work has been seen in solo and group exhibitions New York, Boston and Phoenix and was selected for inclusion in the Arizona Biennial 2018 at Tucson Museum of Art, winning the Erni Cabat Award.

The portrait is of the artist's long-standing friend, Benjamin, and is part of a series of large-scale portraits of young people using 'hyper-realism to explore the language of portraiture to expand African narratives'. After a traumatic childhood being forced out of the Congo due to the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide, and the death of his father, Benjamin now lives in the United States, while his mother remains in Rwanda and can only visit on rare occasions.

AWAITING DIAGNOSIS

YANGYU WANG (b.1980)

Oil on canvas

Yangyu Wang studied computer science at university before working in the art department of IT companies and taking adult education classes in art. This is the first time his work has been exhibited.

The portrait is of Lin Deng whom the artist met in a hospital waiting room in Beijing when accompanying his mother for a medical appointment. The artist was aware of how many people need to travel great distances in order to attend medical facilities in major towns and cities, often far from home. He felt sympathy and respect for the people he met in difficult circumstances and asked if he could make reference sketches and photographs to enable him to create the finished portrait.

THE TEA TRADER

BRITTA WESTHAUSEN (b.1948)

Acrylic on canvas

Britta Westhausen studied at the School of Arts and Crafts in Copenhagen, (now the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts School of Design). Her work has been seen in numerous international group exhibitions including being selected for *The Portrait Now* at the National Historic Museum, Frederiksborg Castle, Denmark and for the Beijing International Art Biennale, China at the National Art Museum of China, 2012–19.

The portrait is of the artist's son, Leslie, who works in the tea trade. It was made in her garden on a sunny day of which Westhausen recalls: 'The light was remarkable bright and featured his personality as I see it. I had to paint his portrait.'

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

FIONA WHITE (b.1964)

Mixed media on board

Fiona White studied at Prahan College of Art, Melbourne. Her work has been seen in numerous group exhibitions including the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition on several occasions, the Stanthorpe Art Prize 2018, New South Wales and *Red Dot* Miami. She has had solo exhibitions in Australia, the United States and the UK and was previously selected for the BP Portrait Award in 2019.

The portrait is a meditation on White's life and events she has witnessed. She says: 'I want the person depicted to be less about me and more about the ideas shown in the painting. Part of my inspiration was The Day of Reaffirmation speech by Robert Kennedy; "... The third danger is timidity... Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change the world which yields most painfully to change".'

MANKO

ANTONY WILLIAMS (b.1964)

Tempera on board

Antony Williams studied at Farnham College and Portsmouth University. His work has been seen in solo exhibitions in London and Madrid and has been included in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition on eleven occasions.

Williams was previously selected for the BP Portrait Award in 1995, 1998, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2017 (third prizewinner) and 2018. His portrait of Amartya Kumar Sen was commissioned for the National Portrait Gallery Collection in 2003.

The portrait is of Ruta, a professional model whom Williams had met when he was teaching a life class. This work was made over several months in Williams's new studio using the painstaking egg tempera technique.

I SAW WILL SELF RIDING A BROMPTON DOWN JOHN ISLIP STREET

CHARLES WILLIAMS (b.1965)

Oil on linen

Charles Williams studied at Maidstone College of Art and the Royal Academy Schools. His work has been seen in solo exhibitions in the UK, Netherlands and United States and he has been selected for juried group exhibitions including the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize and the Threadneedle Prize.

The portrait is of the writer Will Self whom Williams happened to see cycling on the road in Pimlico while he was waiting on the pavement for a friend. Williams made a lightning sketch as soon as he could and later recalled the encounter when in his studio to make this large portrait.

THE LANDSCAPE PAINTER (SELF-PORTRAIT)

BARRY WILSON (b.1952)

Oil on canvas

Barry Wilson studied at Stafford College of Art and Gloucestershire College of Art, Cheltenham. His work has been seen in group exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Arts and Manchester Academy of Art. He was previously selected for the BP Portrait Award in 1984 and 1992.

This self-portrait was made in the artist's studio in the Shropshire Hills. Wilson wanted to capture how the grey northern light filtered down to define the face, while also exploring the foreshortening and distortions of the close oblique angle he had chosen.

SONGBOOK

RICHARD WILSON (b.1974)

Oil on canvas

Richard Wilson is a self-taught artist and muralist. This is the first time his work has been formally exhibited.

The portrait is of the artist's friend, Obi. Wilson says: 'Obi is a singer/songwriter, and I'm fascinated by the process of songwriting. I love how a songwriter can put their thoughts down on paper and turn it into song, and how we can often listen to songs and feel the writer must have written it solely for us when most likely that wasn't the case at all. At some stages during the sittings Obi had been writing in her book which was important, particularly as I felt the final painting showed her to be in a contemplative moment.'

PORTRAIT OF KAIYAN

HAIYU YUAN (b.1996)

Tempera on board

Haiyu Yuan undertook a BA degree at Jiangnan University, China followed by an MA at the Royal College of Art, London. His work has been seen in group exhibitions in London and Shenzhen, China.

The portrait is of the artist's friend and classmate, Kaiyan, whom he decided to depict after Kaiyan's relationship with his girlfriend ended. Haiyu Yuan had long wanted to make a portrait in egg tempera and the painstaking technique gave the two men several hours together in which time to capture the nuances of emotion in Kaiyan's face at a difficult time.

FIRST PRIZE

NIGHT TALK

JIAB PRACHAKUL (b.1979)

Acrylic on canvas

Jiab Prachakul was born in Nakhon Phanom, in northeast Thailand. She studied filmography at Thammasat University before working as a casting director at a Bangkok production company. In 2006, Prachakul relocated to London where she realised that she wanted to be an artist after attending the David Hockney exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery that year. Now living in Lyon, her work has been seen in solo exhibitions in the UK, Germany and France.

The portrait is of the artist's friends Jeonga, a designer from Korea, and Makoto a composer from Japan, on a visit to Berlin. Prachakul wanted to capture their discussions about art and culture. She says: 'Observing the identity of my friends, has helped me to understand who I am. It has offered me a ground on where I can stand and embrace my own identity as an Asian artist who lives and works aboard.'

JUDGES COMMENTS

The judges thought that this was an evocative portrait of a fleeting moment in time, giving us a glimpse into someone else's life that is beautiful, mysterious and alive. It is loosely painted and the bold composition makes clever use of contrasting shapes. The focus is on the enigmatic relationship between the two sitters.

SECOND PRIZE

PORTRAIT OF DENIS: ACTOR, JUGGLER AND FASHION MODEL

SERGEY SVETLAKOV (b.1961)

Oil on canvas

Sergey Svetlakov was born in Kazan, the capital city of what is now the Republic of Tatarstan in the Russian Federation. He graduated from the Kazan Art School, one of the oldest in Russia, before studying set design at the Theatre Academy in St Petersburg where he lives and works. His work has been seen in solo and group exhibitions in Russia, the Netherlands and Japan.

The portrait of Denis aims to capture his changing moods as he reflects on having moved to St Petersburg to begin a career as a professional actor. Svetlakov works entirely from life and only in natural light. The portrait required a sequence of fifteen sittings as it was completed during the diminishing hours of daylight in the autumn and winter months. There were also substantial breaks between sittings as Denis looked for work.

JUDGES COMMENTS

The judges thought this was a timeless study showing devotion to detail and a connection between painter and subject. Tenderly observed, and unfussy, the thickly applied, re-worked paint skilfully describes the passage of time throughout the painting's gestation.

THIRD PRIZE

LABOUR OF LOVE

MICHAEL YOUNDS (b.1982)

Oil on canvas

Born in Blackburn, Lancashire, Youds gained a degree in fine art from Lancaster University before moving to Edinburgh in 2006. His work has been selected for exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy and the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. In 2019, he won first prize in the Scottish Portrait Awards for a painting of him and his twin brother David, who is also an artist.

The portrait is of Tommy Robertson, the owner of an independent music store in Edinburgh. Youds would frequently walk past the store and decided to ask if Robinson would sit for a portrait. The artist spent an hour taking dozens of photographs while Robertson set up the shop, posing with various props. The portrait took ten months to complete from underdrawing to completed oils, while the title refers to the UB40 album cover in a corner of the painting.

JUDGES COMMENTS

The judges thought that this portrait was both poignant and funny. It definitely struck a chord as an allegory for a time and place that already feels nostalgic. It is a fascinating evocation of a particular male identity, for whom collecting is a passion and a way of life. The meticulous execution of the work also serves as a metaphor for the scene.

BP YOUNG ARTIST AWARD

RESTLESS

EGBERT MODDERMAN (b.1989)

Oil on board

Born in Heerenveen, the Netherlands, Egbert Modderman studied at the Minerva Art Academy and Visual Arts in Groningen. He began painting professionally four years ago after being invited by the city's Martinikerk (Martin's Church) to paint a depiction of St Martin. His work has been seen in solo exhibitions in the Netherlands and the USA. The portrait is part of Modderman's series of large-scale oil paintings portraying characters and stories from the Bible.

Modderman recruited a local bricklayer, Oetze, to pose as his model after he spotted him working in his neighbourhood. After taking hundreds of photographs and making several compositional sketches during the sitting, he spent the next month working in oils to finish the portrait. Modderman's work places emphasis on the individual's 'relatable emotions' rather than the sacred mysteries that form the cornerstone of Catholic religious imagery.

JUDGES COMMENTS

The judges thought this portrait was highly accomplished. It combines the strong and striking composition on the horizontal with a surprising sense of immediacy. The thinly applied paint, with the interesting brushed effect, gives a sense of depth, while the use of a simple palette and monumental structure has created a compelling and mature work.

VAND CHAKNA

MANU SALUJA

Oil on canvas

'This portrait invites you into the equanimity of a volunteer in his seventh decade. He sits amid the din of chatter and prayer peeling one onion after another. He is absorbed in *Vand Chakna* - which translates to 'sharing the fruits of ones labor' as a contribution to the larger community.'

SEVADAR GURDEEP SINGH

MANU SALUJA

Oil on canvas

ROSHNI (LIGHT)

MANU SALUJA

Oil on canvas

'For visitors from around the world, these remarkable volunteers, called *sevadars*, are the face of selfless service. While the majority of them are Sikh, anyone can give their time peeling and chopping vegetables, buttering and stacking hot *phulkas* (flatbreads), pouring tea or handing out steel plates and utensils. I was struck by the joyful camaraderie of these women as they worked, illuminated by natural light streaming through the window.'

IKATHE (TOGETHER)

MANU SALUJA

Oil on canvas

SEVA (SERVICE)

MANU SALUJA

Oil on canvas

A LEVER LONG ENOUGH

MANU SALUJA

Oil on canvas

'I had made eye contact with a small boy as he struggled to stir a steaming cauldron big enough for him to swim in. This portrait captures the moment of new responsibility. There is no way this child will grow up ignorant of the fulcrum between service and community. The title is taken from Archimedes: 'Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world''