

# AESTHETICA ART PRIZE

## Future Now: The Aesthetica Art Prize Symposium

### Meet Over 40 High Profile Speakers from the UK's Leading Art Organisations

Aesthetica presents [Future Now](#) from 26 - 27 May at York St John University, providing a brand new opportunity for artists and the public at large to connect with key industry figures from leading art organisations, publications and galleries, broadening their knowledge of contemporary art and enhancing their career by gaining essential industry insight and advice.

To date, the **Aesthetica Art Prize, now in its ninth year**, has supported a wealth of established and emerging artists, many of whom have progressed their careers and furthered their engagement within the art world since their exposure through the Prize. These include Chilean-born photographer Carolina Redondo, later selected for *In Search of the Miraculous* at Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange; and French photographer Noémie Goudal, who has had solo shows at FOAM in Amsterdam and The Photographers' Gallery in London.

**Dr Fiona Thompson, Dean of Arts, York St John University, comments:** "We are really delighted to host this important Symposium at York St John as part of our continuing engagement with Aesthetica. Together we bring the world to York reflecting this City as a global player, as designated by its status as a UNESCO City of Media Arts. Through the Symposium we look at plotting the future directions of travel for current and future makers of art – the line-up of speakers plus the diversity of delegates ensure this will be an exciting and dynamic event."

Tackling themes in today's artistic climate through **lectures, portfolio reviews and panel discussions**, the *Future Now* symposium focuses on the arts ecosystem within a broader social context. The symposium is a place for an **exchange of ideas, offering support, talent development and networking opportunities**.

#### Symposium Session Topics include:

- The Future of Art and Culture: Talent Development and Responsibility
- Fuelling Creativity: Funding and Commissions
- Discovering Creativity: Art Prize Recognition, Exposure and Progression Routes
- Artists' Film and the Moving Image: The Crossover Between Practice & Cinema
- Breaking New Ground: Photography in the Digital Age
- Taking the Risk: Acclimatising Audiences to New Practices
- Contemporary Painting: Traversing Conventional Boundaries
- There are 18 events in total across the two days: [www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/symposium/#sessions](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/symposium/#sessions)

**There is a wide range of speakers**, including acclaimed artists and curators, as well as representatives from a variety of cultural institutions, such as:

- Central St Martins
- Film London
- Leeds Art Gallery
- *Frieze*

- Glasgow School of Art
- Hepworth
- Hiscox
- Jerwood Foundation
- Liverpool Biennial
- National Media Museum
- *Oh Comely*
- Random Acts
- Royal College of Art
- Sheffield Museums
- *The Art Newspaper*
- Whitechapel Gallery
- There are over 40 speakers attending: [www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/symposium](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/symposium)

**The event also welcomes Aesthetica Art Prize 2016 Shortlisted artist Andrea Luka Zimmerman**, Lecturer at Central St Martins and nominee for the Jarman Award and winner of the Artangel Open Award, who speaks in conversation with Maggie Ellis, Head of Artists' Moving Image at Film London, about the evolution that is occurring in artists' film as it defies categorisation through adaptation of more cinematic practices.

Working at the intersection of public and private memory, Zimmerman uses fiction and documentary devices to challenge official histories, marginalisation and political, social and economic violence. Her film *Estate, a Reverie* (2015) is currently on show at the Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition, York St Mary's.

**Cherie Federico, Aesthetica Art Prize Director, comments:** "We are really excited about the number of high-profile speakers from leading art and cultural organisations that are involved in the Symposium. There has been great interest in this event as a place to explore the current state of play in the art world, and look towards the future of visual culture. There is a dynamic mix of talks and panel discussions, and many opportunities for artists to network with their peers and industry professionals. It is a great event for anyone working in the sector, or interested in learning more about it."

Adding to the dynamic programme of talks, panel discussions and portfolio reviews, where artists can get feedback and advice on their work to support future development, there are also **film screenings** showing works selected for the Aesthetica Art Prize in a cinema context, as well as a compilation of outstanding experimental films from the BAFTA Qualifying Aesthetica Short Film Festival (ASFF), an annual event that takes place this year from 3-6 November in York.

**Visitors can book onto four sessions per day, with either a One-Day Pass or a Two-Day Pass.** Booking is essential, and early booking is recommended due to limited capacity.

Travel to Future Now in York with **Virgin Trains:** [www.virgintrainseastcoast.com](http://www.virgintrainseastcoast.com)

- [View the Official Symposium Programme Here](#)
- Book sessions here: [www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/symposium/#sessions](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/symposium/#sessions)

**The Full List of Organisations in Attendance:**

Arusha Gallery / Centre for Contemporary Art Glasgow / Central St Martins / Delfina Foundation / Ffotogallery / Film & Video Umbrella / Film London / Flowers Gallery / Leeds Art

Gallery / Flux / FORMAT Photography Festival / Frieze / Glasgow School of Art / Hepworth / Hiscox / Horniman Museum and Gardens / It's Nice That / Jerwood Foundation / Liverpool Biennial / Lumen Prize / Manchester Metropolitan University / National Media Museum / Northern Film and Media / Norwich University of the Arts / O Street / Oh Comely / Random Acts / Royal College of Art / Sheffield Museums / Suitcase Magazine / The Art Newspaper / Whitechapel Gallery / Zabudowicz Collection.

## Images

Download images and a credits sheet [HERE](#) or contact Alexandra Beresford: 01904 629 137, [alexandra@aestheticamagazine.com](mailto:alexandra@aestheticamagazine.com)

## Notes to Editors

1. Future Now: Aesthetica Art Prize Symposium: York St John University, De Grey Building. 26 – 27 May 2016
2. Book Passes and Sessions in advance by visiting [www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/symposium](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/symposium) or by calling 01904 627 137
3. The event includes lectures, panel discussions, networking opportunities, portfolio reviews and film screenings. A pass also permits access to the Networking Part at 1331.
4. Symposium supporters and sponsors include: York St John University, Arts Council England and Virgin Trains.
5. **About Virgin Trains**  
Stagecoach and Virgin are working in partnership to operate the East Coast and West Coast inter-city routes under the Virgin Trains brand. Together, they are on track to revolutionise rail travel across the UK.  
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On the East Coast route, £140m is being invested to create a more personalised travel experience. This includes a major fleet revamp, smarter stations and exciting new routes. From May 2016, there will be 42 additional services (22,000 extra seats) per week between Edinburgh and London. 2018 will see the introduction of completely new Azuma trains being built in the UK by Hitachi.  
The West Coast route has a proud record of challenging the status quo - from introducing tilting Pendolino trains, to a pioneering automated delay repay scheme and becoming the first franchised rail operator to offer m-Tickets for all ticket types.  
Visit the Virgin Trains Media Room - <http://mediaroom.virgintrains.co.uk> - for the latest news, images and videos. Subscribe [here](#) for regular news from Virgin Trains.  
Press Office: 0845 000 3333.
6. Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition: York St Mary's, Castlegate, York, YO1 9RN. 14 April – 29 May, Wednesday to Sunday, 12pm-4pm. Free Admission. [www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/exhibition-2016](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/exhibition-2016); [www.yorkstmarys.org.uk](http://www.yorkstmarys.org.uk); @AestheticaMag and [facebook.com/aestheticamagazine](https://www.facebook.com/aestheticamagazine)
7. Free Lunchtime Talks: York St Mary's, Thursdays from 14 April – 19 May, from 12.30pm. Free admission. See the full list of talks here: [www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/exhibition-2016](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/exhibition-2016)

8. The Judging Panel enhances its position in the industry, bringing together specialists from leading cultural institutions. Judges: **Clare Lilley**, Director of Programme at Yorkshire Sculpture Park; **John Keane**, Artist, Aesthetica Art Prize Winner 2015; **Whitney Hintz**, Independent Advisor and Curator of the Hiscox Collection; **Alex Newson**, Senior Curator at Design Museum; **Karin Askham**, Dean of the School of Media, London College of Communication, University of the Arts London; **Sophie Raikes**, Assistant Curator (Collections) at the Henry Moore Institute; **Dr Sam Lackey**, Curator at The Hepworth Wakefield; **Phillip Prodger**, Head of Photographs at the National Portrait Gallery; **Cherie Federico**, Co-founder & Managing Director of Aesthetica. To see Judges' biographies, visit [www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/judging-panel](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/art-prize/judging-panel)
9. The award attracts thousands of entries in a range of innovative media from locations as diverse as Australia, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the UK and the USA. Previous finalists include John Keane, former official British war artist, currently represented by Flowers Gallery in London; Julia Vogl, shortlisted for Saatchi Gallery and Channel 4's New Sensations; Ingrid Hu, former designer at the Lubetkin-winning Heatherwick Studio; Marcus Jansen, a leading modern expressionist; and Bernat Millet, shortlisted for National Portrait Gallery's Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize.
10. Aesthetica Art Prize Sponsors and Partners: Hiscox, York St John University, Arts Council England, York Museums Trust, National Portrait Gallery, The Hepworth Wakefield, Design Museum, Henry Moore Institute, University of the Arts London, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Prestel, Winsor & Newton.
11. Global specialist insurer, Hiscox, has a 100 year heritage of insuring complex and unusual risks, as well as a passion for art that gets into everything we do; we insure it, we collect it and we promote it. We appreciate that every piece is as unique as the people who create, collect, buy and show it, and our understanding of the market means we are well positioned to help clients protect their collections. Find out more at [www.hiscox.co.uk](http://www.hiscox.co.uk)
12. Aesthetica Art Prize Shortlist 2016: Adriana Salazar, Gabriela Torres Ruiz, David Hochgatterer, Jennifer López Ayala, Andrea Luka Zimmerman, Henry Driver, Ellie Davies, James Winter, Liz West, Rachel Ara.
13. The Aesthetica Art Prize longlist includes 90 artists from such locations as Austria, Canada, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, the UK and the USA.
14. The *Aesthetica Art Prize Annual: Future Now* will be published to coincide with the exhibition. It offers the opportunity to explore 100 captivating projects from the 2016 shortlist and longlist. For only £9.95, it can be bought at York St Mary's and online: [www.aestheticamagazine.com/shop](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com/shop)
15. A series of critical essays are also featured in *Future Now*, offering contextualisation in mapping current trends in today's visual culture. We hear from John Keane, Artist, Main Prize Winner 2015; Sarah Coulson, Curator, Yorkshire Sculpture Park; Vanessa Corby, Senior Lecturer, Fine Art, York St John University, and Chris Littlewood, Photography Director, Flowers Gallery. The Aesthetica Art Prize is now open for entries. Deadline closes 31 August 2016.

#### Partners and Supporters:



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