

NEW LUMINARIES: AESTHETICA ART PRIZE 2021



Images: 1. Erwin Redl Reflections, LEDs, custom electronics, MDF panel, stainless steel frame, 91.4 x 91.4 x 10.2 cm. 2. Carlos David, Personae II, Ink-Jet print on Hahnemühle Photo Rag Metallic Video in 4K. 3. Henny Burnett, 365 Days of Plastic, cast dental plaster.

This year's shortlisted artists deal with today's most prescient themes, from algorithm bias and data dissemination to the effects of the climate emergency.

The Aesthetica Prize is one of the UK's most prestigious awards, offering £6,000 in prize money for innovative, boundary pushing artworks. Winning pieces have reflected upon both social and political structures, questioning the value that we place on the planet and each other. They have provided a new set of possibilities and ideas through a range of forms and subjects. Winners have included **John Keane**, **Rhea Storr** and **Jenn Nkiru**, with shortlisted artists including **Prix Pictet nominee Sim Chi Yin** and **Turner Prize nominees Jane & Louise Wilson**.

This year's shortlist includes 20 trailblazers working across video, sculpture, photography and painting, discussing some of today's most pressing themes from the racial bias built into 21st century algorithms to the fabrications of post-truth. From the Netherlands to Brazil, USA to the UK, these works lead us into new worlds and expand the perceptions of the viewer. **Erwin Redl's Reflections** (USA – pictured above), for example, comprises over a decade of research into the nature of visual perception, building on the tradition of colour field painting and drawing upon spatial minimalism.

Meanwhile, **Carlos David's Personae II** (USA) is an exploration of how the human spirit can transcend stigmatisation and marginalisation, framing individuals in bright, saturated sets. **Henny Burnett's 365 Days of Plastic** (UK) is an installation cast in pink dental plaster. It demonstrates one year's worth of plastic food packaging from a single household, which is both simultaneously beautiful and horrifying. During the four days of the **Future Now Symposium (28 April-1 May)**, attendees will have the opportunity to meet this year's shortlisted artists to learn more about the ideas behind the pieces. Artists will unpack what makes a winning piece, as well as how to navigate the world— both during- and post-pandemic.

FUTURE NOW

AESTHETICA SYMPOSIUM

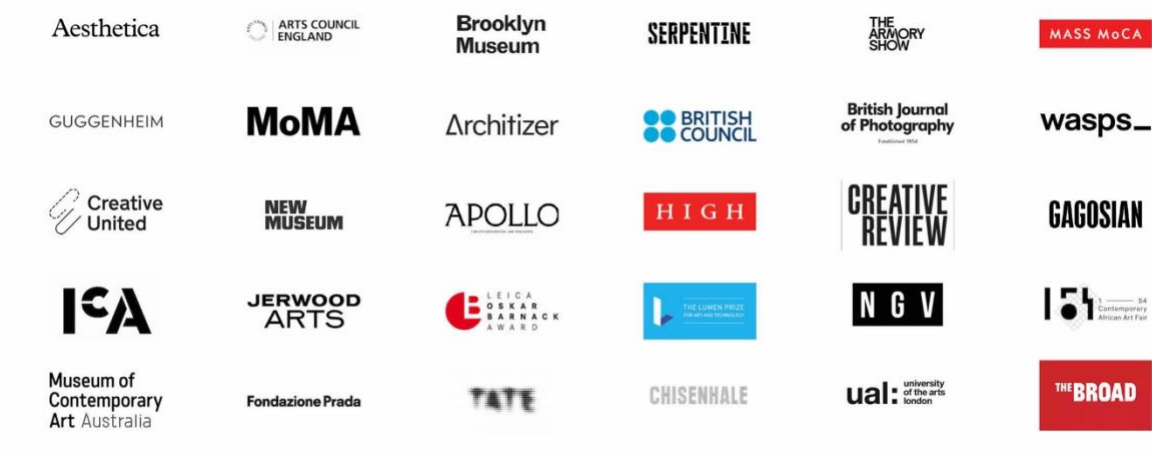
The Future Now Symposium runs live 28 April-1 May. All sessions are available On Demand until 31 May. Tickets are priced between £20 and £50, from a 24-hour festival login to a month of content, with access to 100 films, 1:1 portfolio reviews with industry experts and advice sessions with Arts Council England.

Key information for editors:

- **The Future Now Symposium is an exploration of 21st century culture through the mechanism of art, live streamed events run 28 April – 1 May. On Demand sessions are available 2-31 May.**
- This four-day virtual event brings together key institutions, galleries, publications and artists for live-streamed discussions surrounding the most pressing issues from today's creative industries. Future Now is a platform for idea generation, with imaginative debates, panel discussions, career advice and cultural engagement.
- **Future Now finds a new home in an accessible online space for 2021.**
- **All ticketholders can also stream an expansive programme of 100 ground-breaking independent films** across Dance, Experimental, Documentary and Artists' Film.
- **Our platform can be accessed on computers, smart TVs, smart phones and all tablet devices.** There is no requirement to pre-register for sessions as they will be live streamed.
- **Tickets are £20 for a 24-hour log-in, £40 for a four-day log-in and £50 for the full one-month access.**
- **Representatives at Future Now 2021 include:** Aesthetica, Architizer, Arts Council England, Apollo Magazine, The Armory Show, Athi-Patra Ruga, Bieke Depoorter, Bill Posters, British Journal of Photography, British Council, Chisenhale Gallery, Creative Review, Creative United, Fahamu Pecou, Fondazione Prada, Frieze, Gagosian, George Byrne, Gonçalo Fonseca, Guggenheim Museum, Gulnara Samoilova, High Museum of Art, Ian Volner, Jerwood Arts, ICA Boston, International Center of Photography, Jakob Kudsk Steensen, Leica Oskar Barnack Award, London Art Fair, London College of Communication, Luca Locatelli, The Lumen Prize, Maïmouna Guerresi, Magnum Photos, MASS MoCA, Museum of Modern Art, MCA Australia, New Museum, NGV Melbourne, Serpentine Galleries, Shirin Neshat, Tales of Us, Tate, V&A, Wasps Studios, 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair.
- **Future Now 2021 offers 1:1 Portfolio Reviews** across the four days, with representatives from **the V&A, British Journal of Photography, Fabrica, Aesthetica, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Serpentine Galleries, Moniker Art Fair Artangel and Gazelli Art House, as well as a number of independent artists. Pre-booking online.**
- **Arts Council England are also offering a series of 1:1 Advice Sessions. Pre-booking essential online.**
- **The Future Now Symposium coincides with the 2021 Aesthetica Art Prize.** The 2021 shortlisted artists include: Monica Alcazar-Duarte, Andrew Leventis, Chris Combs, James Tapscott, Alice Duncan and Cesar & Lois Collective, Carlos David, Seb Agnew, Kitoko Diva, Christiane Zschommler, Henny Burnett, and Niels Lyhne Løkkegaard. David Brandy, Shan Wu, Cathryn Shilling, Dirk Hardy, Juliana Kasumu, Gabriel Henschel and Erwin Redl.
- **The 2021 Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition** runs 28 May - 28 September at York Art Gallery, UK.

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For press queries: contact Associate Editor, Kate Simpson, kate@aestheticamagazine.com
For queries related to the Aesthetica Art Prize: contact art-prize@aestheticamagazine.com