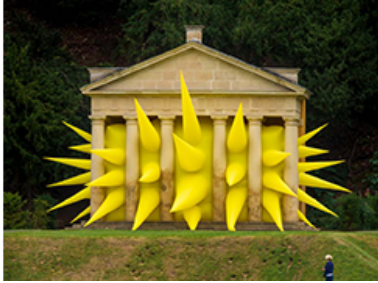


20 Creative Visionaries:  
The Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition 2022  
24 June – 18 September, York Art Gallery



Over the past two years, we have witnessed radical shifts in the ways that we live, communicate, work and play – as well as how we travel, socialise and experience culture.

The Aesthetica Art Prize is an annual celebration of contemporary art. The 2022 exhibition, which brings together this year's talented finalists at York Art Gallery, invites audiences to explore, discover and engage with themes from our rapidly changing world – wide-ranging topics that include the ethics of representation, mass digitisation, globalisation, diasporic identities and the continuing threats posed by the climate crisis.

This year's 20 finalists come from myriad countries – Argentina, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Norway, the UK and USA. Their works span painting and drawing; photography and digital art; three-dimensional design and sculpture; installation, performance and video art. These pieces – both individually and collectively – disrupt the status quo. Together, they ask key questions about life right here in the 21st century, whilst looking to the future.

The show features an eye-catching inflatable installation by Steve Messam – typically “bigger than a house” – which exploits colour and scale, temporarily transforming the gallery's outdoor space. Elsewhere is work by Jason Bruges Studio: a pioneer of the hybrid space between art, architecture and tech. In film, Sarah Maple's bold and witty work explores the relationship artists have with the art world, whilst Baff Akoto's *Leave The Edges* investigates the complex ancestries of African diasporic cultural expression.

Cherie Federico, Director of the Aesthetica Art Prize, said: “I am honoured to have the opportunity to engage with, and support, so much talent. Every day I am inspired by these artists. I thank them for giving me the opportunity to experience such captivating work. This year's Prize received 4,000 artworks, which was then longlisted to 125, then to 20 finalists. The curation process is rigorous; decisions are based on originality, skill and technical ability.”

“The Aesthetica Art Prize is a way to convene, discuss and make sense of the present moment at this critical juncture in history. Art has the power to unite. It is transformative. It takes us to new places, and introduces us to new cultures, but most importantly, it reminds us of our humanity.”

This year's finalists are: Akihiro Boujoh; Baff Akoto; Bart Price; Elise Guillaume; Ellen Carey; Gjert Rognli; Guen Murrioni; Ingrid Weyland; Jason Bruges Studio; K Young; Marcus Lyon; Omar Torres; Rebecca Lejić-Tiernan;

Sara Choudhrey; Sarah Maple; Sophie Dixon; Steve Messam; Terrence Musekiwa; Ulf König; and Yukako Tanaka.

Previous Aesthetica Art Prize winners have gone on to achieve further exhibitions at Tate Modern, The Photographers' Gallery, MoMA PS1, Foam Amsterdam, V&A, Barbican, Guggenheim Museum, Saatchi Gallery, Centre Pompidou and more. They've won, or been nominated for a range of prestigious awards, including the Prix Elysée, FOAM Talent and the Jarman Award. They've achieved further publication and recognition in *The Sunday Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The New Yorker*, *New York Times Magazine*.

For further information and requests please contact:

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#### Notes for Editors

- To watch video interviews with the shortlisted artists, [click here](#).
- To learn more about the 2022 Aesthetica Art Prize, [click here](#).
- To download press images, [click here](#).
- The Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition runs 24 June – 18 September at York Art Gallery.
- A new edition of the [Future Now Anthology](#) will be published to coincide with the exhibition launch, profiling all of 2022's shortlisted and longlisted Aesthetica Art Prize artists. Available to purchase for £12.95.
- The Prize is a celebration of emerging and established artists from across the world, inviting audiences to be inspired by a wealth of ideas and perspectives. The £10,000 award celebrates contemporary art in all its forms, offering opportunities for publication and exhibition at a major public gallery. Entries are open for the 2023 edition until 31 August. To find out more, [click here](#).
- The Art Prize is hosted Aesthetica Magazine: [www.aestheticamagazine.com](http://www.aestheticamagazine.com)
- The 2022 Aesthetica Art Prize Judging Panel is: Ameena M. McConnell, Independent Curator Publisher & Researcher; Cherie Federico, Co-founder & Managing Director, Aesthetica; Damon Jackson-Waldock, Programme Director, The Art House Wakefield; Drew Sawyer, Photography Curator, Brooklyn Museum; Eliza Williams, Editor Creative Review; Izabela Radwanska Zhang, Editor, British Journal of Photography; Holly Trusted, Senior Honorary Research Fellow, V&A; Juliana Kasumu, Artist, Aesthetica Art Prize Winner; Kyung An, Associate Curator, Asian Art, Guggenheim Museum; Sarah Allen, Head of Programme, South London Gallery; Skinder Hundal, Director of Arts, British Council; Touria El Glaoui, Founding Director, 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fairs.

## York Museums Trust

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