

Winners Announced: Aesthetica Art Prize 2024

The winners of the Aesthetica Art Prize 2024 are **Maryam Tafakory** and **Gala Hernández López**, selected by jurors from key institutions such as IKON, Serpentine Gallery, Turner Contemporary, V&A & more.



The **2024 Main Prize-winner is Maryam Tafakory** for the artist film *Nazarbazi [the play of glances]*, which explores love and desire in Iranian cinema, where depictions of intimacy between women and men are prohibited. The **2023 Emerging Prize-winner is Gala Hernández López**, whose film *The Mechanics of Fluids* travels the internet in search of the digital trace of an incel, finding troubling signs of isolation and solitude along the way.

The winners, who receive £10,000 prize money, exhibition and publication as well as further opportunities for development, were chosen from a shortlist of **21 trailblazing contemporary artists whose works are now on view at York Art Gallery until 21 April**. This year's luminaries include the Sony World Photographer of the Year, **Edgar Martins**; **Heather Agyepong**, Foam Talent and Jerwood winner; and **Yevhen Samuchenko**, recommended by CNN. The presentation confronts life in the 21st century, from beautiful universal human moments to a lack of regulation of

internet culture and the destruction of our planet's oceans. Elsewhere, audiences can discover a breadth of trailblazing work across painting, collage, photography and more.



Cherie Federico, the Director of the Aesthetica Art Prize, comments:

“Contemporary art can change the world and here in York, which is one of 22 global UNESCO City of Media Arts, we are doing just that. It’s unexpected for York to be the destination for global conversations around contemporary artistic practice, but we are pushing the envelope with powerful works and bold programming that looks at every facet of life in the 21st century. The pieces on display are timely, immediate and necessary.”



The **Aesthetica Art Prize** is one of the UK's most prestigious awards for new talent. The annual competition predicts the future of the sector by shining a light on artists who are redefining the parameters of contemporary art. This is a who's who list of practitioners who will start to appear in major collections and exhibitions worldwide. The Aesthetica Art Prize gives you a first-look. To discover all 280 artists longlisted for this year's award, audiences can visit the all-new online gallery at artprize.aestheticamagazine.com.

Maryam Tafakory and **Gala Hernández López** join Aesthetica's talented art prize alumni, who continue to demonstrate excellence across the globe. Their work has been shown at key institutions, including **Centre Pompidou, Foam Amsterdam, MOMA PS1, Tate Modern and V&A**. They have won, or been nominated for a range of prestigious awards, including the **Jarman Award, John Moore's Painting Prize, Sony World Photography Awards and Taylor Wessing Portrait Prize**. They have achieved publication across **Frieze, Art Review, The Guardian, The New York Times** and **Vice**.

The Aesthetica Art Prize Exhibition runs **16 February – 21 April 2024** and is a testament to shared creativity in a time of immense change.

Tickets can be booked in advance on the **York Art Gallery website**.