

Press Release – 21 March 2016

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD ANNOUNCES FOUR SHORTLISTED ARTISTS
AND JUDGING PANEL FOR THE UK'S FIRST PRIZE FOR SCULPTURE



THE HEPWORTH PRIZE FOR SCULPTURE



Sculpture communicates an immediate sense of life – you can feel the pulse of it
Barbara Hepworth (1959)

THE HEPWORTH PRIZE FOR SCULPTURE
21 OCTOBER 2016 - 22 JANUARY 2017

Today, The Hepworth Wakefield in West Yorkshire announced the four shortlisted artists and judging panel for the UK's first prize for sculpture.

The £30,000 new biennial award, *The Hepworth Prize for Sculpture* will recognise a British or UK-based artist of any age, at any stage in their career, who has made a significant contribution to the development of contemporary sculpture. *The Hepworth Prize for Sculpture* is an integral part of the gallery's 5th anniversary celebrations and named in honour of Barbara Hepworth.

Dr Sophie Bowness, art historian, THW Trustee and granddaughter of Barbara Hepworth said: "The launch of the UK's first Prize for Sculpture is a fitting legacy to Barbara Hepworth, one of Britain's greatest sculptors whose career was enhanced through a variety of awards, from her early scholarships the Grand Prix at the 1959 São Paulo Bienal".

Simon Wallis, Director of The Hepworth Wakefield and Chair of the Selecting Panel said: "We are delighted to have such a strong and diverse shortlist for our inaugural Prize and are looking forward to working with these artists and to inspire and engage our audiences with the medium of sculpture. It is particularly fitting that we launch the first Prize of its kind here in the heart of the Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle."

He added: "There are no shortage of prizes in the art world, however few specifically recognise sculpture. We therefore wanted to address this by launching one of the UK's most important new awards. We have based the selection of the four shortlisted artists on the significance of their contribution to sculpture in its broadest definition."

The four shortlisted artists are (in alphabetical order):

- Phyllida Barlow
- Steven Claydon
- Helen Marten
- David Medalla

The finalists will present their work in an exhibition at The Hepworth Wakefield from 21 October 2016 until 22 January 2017. Visitors to the exhibition will be encouraged experience, debate and judge the Prize for themselves. The winner of the first *Hepworth Prize for Sculpture* will be announced at an awards dinner in November.

Phyllida Barlow said: "It was a surprise and huge honour to be short-listed for the inaugural Hepworth Prize for Sculpture. Without doubt, it will be a thrilling experience to exhibit at The Hepworth Wakefield and to take into consideration its dynamic architecture which has sculpture very much in mind. It is also exciting to be exhibiting with the three other short-listed artists."

Steven Claydon said: "'I'm very pleased to have been shortlisted for this award. Although multifaceted, my work derives primarily from interaction with the world of objects: they are the conduits that provide access to the intangible realms of the emotional, digital and theoretical. In that way, sculpture always endures. This award is a validation of these imperatives, and of the part played by artists in Britain who contribute toward this medium."

Helen Marten said: "In a world collapsing under the pressure of billions of personal interfaces, it is exciting to celebrate our relationship to physical touch and the material substance of our daily actions. I am particularly honoured to be included in a shortlist of artists so dedicated to making sculpture, and am excited to make an exhibition with a group of such esteemed and diverse practitioners."

David Medalla added: "'I feel honoured in being selected for an exhibition at The Hepworth Wakefield. I think the Hepworth Prize for Sculpture is a palpable expression of the greatness of Barbara Hepworth as a sculptor. I love her enduring and inspiring art.'

The Hepworth Prize for Sculpture 2016 Judging Panel of five comprises:

- Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, Director of Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea and GAM – Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Torino
- David Chipperfield: architect and designer of The Hepworth Wakefield
- Sheika Hoor al-Qasimi, President Sharjah Art Foundation
- Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, President of The Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, collector and patron of the arts
- Alastair Sooke, art critic and broadcaster

A nomination panel of five chaired by Simon Wallis compiled the shortlist:

- Katrina Brown, Director of Common Guild
- Jennifer Higgie, Co-Editor of Frieze
- Lisa Le Feuvre, Director of the Henry Moore Institute
- Sally Tallant, Director of Liverpool Biennial
- Bart van der Heide, Chief Curator at Stedelijk Museum

The Hepworth Prize for Sculpture is supported by the following individuals:

Linda Harley
David Liddiment
David Roberts

Supporting Sponsor:



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ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For further details, interview requests with members of the nomination and judging panels and the shortlisted artists, please contact:

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EDITOR'S NOTES:

PHYLLIDA BARLOW

Phyllida Barlow (b. 1944, in Newcastle upon Tyne, England), lives and works in London.

Studied at Chelsea College of Art, London, England, 1960 – 1963

Studied at Slade School of Fine Art, London, England, 1963 – 1966

In the late 1960s, Phyllida began teaching at the Slade School of Fine Art as Professor of Fine Art. She retired in 2009 from teaching in order to focus on her own work.

Selected Solo Exhibitions:

2017 - 57th Biennale di Venezia, British Pavilion, Venice, Italy

2016 - Kunsthalle Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

2015 - Nasher Sculpture Center, 'tryst', Dallas TX; Fruitmarket Gallery; 'set', Edinburgh, Scotland
Lokremise, 'mix', St. Gallen, Switzerland

2014 - Tate Britain, 'Duveen Commission: Phyllida Barlow. dock', London, England; Hauser & Wirth; 'Fifty Years of Drawings', London, England; Hauser & Wirth Somerset, 'GIG', Somerset, England

2013 - Des Moines Art Center, 'screed', Des Moines IA; Norton Museum of Art, 'HOARD', West Palm Beach FL; Contemporary Art Society, London, England

2012 - New Museum, 'siege', New York NY; Henry Moore Institute, 'Phyllida Barlow: Bad Copies', Leeds, England; Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, 'BRINK', Aachen, Germany; Hauser & Wirth, '...later', New York NY

Recent Awards:

2014 - Townsend Lecture, Slade School of Fine Art

2012 - Aachen Art Prize; Award for the Most Significant Contribution to the Development of Contemporary Art, Arsenal 2012 Awards, Kiev Biennale, Ukraine

2011 - Royal Academician, Royal Academy of Arts

2007 - Award to an Individual Artist, Arts Council England; Award to an Individual Artist, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, London, England

STEVEN CLAYDON

Steven Claydon (b. 1969) lives and works in London.

He studied at Chelsea School of Art & Design and Central Saint Martins, London.

Recent and forthcoming exhibitions:

The Promise of Total Automation, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (group exhibition), 10 Mar – 29 May 2016; *Up, Down, Top, Bottom, Strange and Charm*, Art Sheffield, Sheffield (group exhibition), 16 April – 8 May 2016; *Solid Liquids*, Kunsthalle Münster (group exhibition), 04 June - 25 September 2016; *What People Do for Money: Some Joint Ventures*, Manifesta 11, Zurich (group exhibition), 11 June – 18 September

Selected major solo exhibitions:

Analogues, Methods, Monsters, Machines, CAC Genève, Geneva (2015); *The Fictional Pixel and The Ancient Set*, Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen (2015); *Culpable Earth*, Firstsite, Colchester (2012); *Mon Plaisir...Votre Travail...*, La Salle de Bains, Lyon (2011); *Golden Times*, Haus der Kunst, Munich (2010); and *The Ancient Set and The Fictional Pixel*, Serpentine Pavilion, London (2008).

In 2015 he curated (with Martin Clark) *The Noing Uv It*, at Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen; and *Strange Events Permit Themselves The Luxury of Occurring* at Camden Arts Centre in 2007.

His films *Grid & Spike* and *Mimicry Systems* were broadcast as part of ICA's Channel 4 Random Acts in 2013. Claydon has also been involved in experimental electronic music for over 20 years, most notably as part of the bands Add N to X, Jack too Jack, and Long Meg.

A book on Claydon's work is forthcoming from Mousse Publishing.

HELEN MARTEN

Helen Marten (b. 1985, Macclesfield) lives and works in London.

Recent & forthcoming solo exhibitions:

2016 - *Eucalyptus, Let us in*, Greene Naftali, NYC; and the Serpentine Gallery, London.

2014 - *Oreo St. James*, Sadie Coles HQ, London; *Parrot Problems*, Fridericianum, Kassel, Germany

2013 - *No borders in a wok that can't be crossed*, CCS Bard Hessel Museum, Annandale-on-Hudson (NY), USA

2012 *Plank Salad*, Chisenhale Gallery, London; *Evian Disease*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris

2012 *Almost The Exact Shape Of Florida*, Kunsthalle Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

Selected group exhibitions:

2016 - The Hirshhorn Museum, Washington DC (USA), Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden; The 20th Biennale of Sydney.

2015 - *All the World's Futures*, 56th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

2014 - *Mirrorcity*, Hayward Gallery, London

2013 - *Il Palazzo Enciclopedico (The Encyclopedic Palace)*; 55th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (12th Lyon Biennale, Lyon)

2012 - *New pictures of common objects*, MoMA PS1, New York; *The New Public*, Museion, Bolzano

DAVID MEDALLA

David Medalla (b. 1942, Manila, the Philippines), lives and works in London, New York City and Paris.

He is an international artist whose work ranges from sculpture and kinetic art to painting, installation and performance art.

In the late 1950s he met Jaime Gil de Biedma (the Catalan poet) and the painter Fernando Zóbel de Ayala, who became the earliest patrons of his art. In the 1960s in Paris, the French philosopher Gaston Bachelard introduced his performance 'Brother of Isidora' at the Academy of Raymond Duncan, later, Louis Aragon would introduce another performance and finally, Marcel Duchamp honoured him with a 'medallic' object.

In the early 1960s he moved to the United Kingdom and co-founded the Signals Gallery in London in 1964, which presented international kinetic art. In 1967 he initiated the Exploding Galaxy, an international confluence of multi-media artists, significant in hippie/counterculture circles, particularly the UFO Club and Arts Lab.

In New York, in 1994, he founded the Mondrian Fan Club with Adam Nankervis as vice-president, his ongoing collaborator since NYC 1990. In 1995 Medalla rented a space in London, in which he lived and exhibited new versions of his biokinetic constructions of the sixties (bubble machines; and a monumental sand machine), large-scale prints of his New York 'Mondrian Events', large oil paintings and a monumental animated neon relief entitled 'Kinetic Mudras for Piet Mondrian'. Medalla also invited artists to perform at the space.

He was the founder and director of the London Biennale in 1998, a "do-it-yourself" free arts festival, which hosted work by Mai Ghoussoub, Mark McGowan, Deej Fabyc, Marko Stepanov, Adam Nankervis, James Moores, Dimitri Launder, Fritz Stolberg, Salih Kayra, Marisol Cavia, and many others.

Aged 12 Medalla was admitted at Columbia University in New York upon the recommendation of American poet Mark van Doren. He studied ancient Greek drama with Moses Hadas, modern drama with Eric Bentley, modern literature with Lionel Trilling, modern philosophy with John Randall and attended the poetry workshops of Léonie Adams.

David Medalla has lectured internationally, from the Sorbonne, the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art of New York, to the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Canterbury, Warwick and Southampton in England, the Slade School of Fine Art and St. Martin's in London.

Selected Exhibitions:

2014 - *The Silence of a Movement*, Another Vacant Space, Berlin, Germany; *Other Primary Structures*, The Jewish Museum, New York, USA.

2013 - 9th Bienal do Mercosul, *Dancing Volcanos of Latin America* (performance) and *Cloud-Gates Bubble Machine*, Porto Alegre, Brazil

2011 - *The Secret History of Mondrian Fanclub - Part 3: SO PULO'* Baró Galeria, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Awards:

David Medalla has won awards from the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Jerome Foundation of America.

THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The gallery is at the heart of Wakefield's regeneration. Designed by the internationally acclaimed practice, David Chipperfield Architects, it is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England and an increasing number of charitable trusts, private individuals, Patrons and Members.

The gallery opened on 21 May 2011 and has since welcomed nearly 1.5 million visitors.

Address: The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW

Telephone: +44 (0)1924 247360

Admission: Free

Website: www.hepworthwakefield.org

Email: hello@hepworthwakefield.org

Opening Hours: 10am - 5pm Tuesday – Sunday
10am - 9pm Third Thursday of the month
Closed Mondays (except local school holidays and bank holidays)

Travel: By Train: the nearest stations are Wakefield Westgate and Kirkgate
By Car: the gallery is situated off the A61, with nearby links to the M1 motorway. A pay & display visitor car park is located on Thornes Lane, WF1 5QJ, with free blue badge car parking on site
By Bus: the gallery is situated on main bus routes and the FreeCityBus route (Mon-Sat, 9.30am-3pm)
By Bicycle: bicycle racks are located by our main entrance
By Air: the nearest airport is LeedsBradford

Polite Request: The gallery should be cited in full, as The Hepworth Wakefield

Twitter: @HepworthGallery

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YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE TRIANGLE

Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle is a partnership founded in March 2012 between four of the region's most influential visual arts organisations: the Henry Moore Institute, The Hepworth Wakefield, Leeds Art Gallery and Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Every year more than 1 million art lovers enjoy world-class exhibitions by contemporary and modern artists at these venues which are within a 30-minute drive, bus or train ride from each other. Through an ambitious programme of shared exhibitions and events, in addition to their own public programmes, Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle aims to raise the profile of Yorkshire's unique sculpture heritage as the birthplace of Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore, and to establish Yorkshire as one of the best places to see contemporary and modern sculpture in the world.

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