



Embargoed for 1 March, 2016

National Open Art reveals its 2016 judges as its 20th annual competition opens

- David Remfry, Robin Muir, the Tate's Fiona Kingsman amongst this year's judges
- New miniatures category announced
- NOA Winter Exhibition to take place in Mercers' Hall in October

Royal Academician David Remfry, former Vogue picture editor-turned-curator Robin Muir, the Tate's Head of Learning, Programme and Resources Fiona Kingsman and film makers Sarah Cunliffe and Kathy Oldridge are to judge the 2016 National Open Art Competition.

Professional and amateur artists aged 15 and over can now submit work to the main 2016 competition. For the first time, a new miniatures category is being offered alongside categories in painting, drawing, original print, photography, wall hung installation, digital art and moving image. Each entry is judged anonymously, making the competition one of the most democratic in the UK and Ireland operating today.

Past winners include Kelvin Okafor, Sarah Jane Bellwood, Vaughn Horsman, Jane McAdam Freud and Harry Borden.

Judge David Remfry said: "National Open Art is an important platform for artists and it's wonderful to be involved as a judge in the competition's 20th year. The finalists are always an eclectic mix and a reflection of the impressive talent at work in the UK and Ireland today. I would encourage artists to apply to - it really can make a difference to their careers."

The 2015 competition attracted nearly 4000 entries and awarded around £60,000 in prizes and mentoring opportunities to 35 winning artists. For the second year running, young artists aged 14 and under can also enter as part of the NOA children's competition.

This year's finalists will be exhibited in NOA's Winter Exhibition at Mercers' Hall in October where the prize winners will be announced. For the second year, people will be able to vote online for their favourite long-listed piece to be included in the Winter Exhibition when NOA16's World Vote opens in August.

Neil Lawson-Baker, chair of NOA, said: "It is amazing to think the National Open Art Competition has been running for 20 years. We have seen some incredible artists flourish through the competition during this time and I have every hope that this year's competition will be the most inspiring and thought-provoking yet."

The 500 long-listed entries from this year's competition will be for sale through NOA's website and at various exhibitions.

NOA16 is open for entries from 1 March until midnight on 10 July 2016. Finalists will be announced in September, and the winners revealed on 27 October. Entry costs £20 per adult entry, £5 per child entry.

For more information visit www.thenationalopenartcompetition.com.

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Images of the winning artworks from NOA15 to accompany this release plus images of this year's judges are available to download [here](#). Please credit the artist of any image used.

For further information, interviews or images, please contact Hester Phillips at Cut Through PR: hester@cutthroughpr.com / 07786926907.

Judge biogs

Fiona Kingsman, Head of Learning, Programme and Resources

Fiona has worked for the Tate Learning department for 10 years, initially at Tate Modern and then as a member of the London cross-site Senior Management team. Fiona is now working on the development of a major new learning programme for Tate.

David Remfry RA

David Remfry's artistic career spans more than 30 years. A figurative painter born and trained in England, Royal Academician Remfry has a long-established reputation as a draftsman and watercolourist, having had over 50 solo exhibitions in Europe and America.

Robin Muir

Robin Muir is a photographic historian, exhibition organizer and a former picture editor of Vogue and the Sunday Telegraph Magazine and currently Contributing Editor to Vogue. Most recently he has curated Vogue 100 A Century of Style for the National Portrait Gallery, London.

Sarah Cunliffe, Executive Producer, Big Wave Productions

Sarah is an award-winning producer, writer, director and executive producer. Her most recent productions include the ITV mini-series Britain's Wales and Britain's Sharks presented by Ben Fogle and Ellie Harrison, which airs in the spring.

Kathy Oldridge, Director of Antennae

Kathy is a marketing expert and film-maker who deliberately juxtaposes art and business. As a director of marketing consultancy she develops and runs behaviour change programmes around communication, design and innovation for clients including Unilever, Heineken and Aviva.