



PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed: 3.30pm, 26 May 2016

The Big Draw Awards ceremony: 2.15-6.30pm, Thursday 26 May 2016. Photocall: 1-2pm.

For a press pass, interviews, images and enquiries contact: Amy Clancy on 07737 358 357 or email: press@thebigdraw.org.

Announcing the Winners of The Big Draw Awards 2016

Highlights

- **10 Winners of The Big Draw Awards** will be announced today.
- The Big Draw Awards celebrate the organisers of outstanding events that take place as part of the international **Big Draw Festival** each October.
- Special guests include: award-winning artist, **Tanya Raabe-Webber** and designer and baker extraordinaire, **Frances Quinn**, Big Draw ambassador and winner of The Great British Bake Off 2013, who has created a **STEAM themed cake** for the occasion.
- **The Big Draw Festival** is an annual, international celebration of drawing that takes place from 1-31 October and has encouraged over **3 million** people back to the drawing board.
- Around **1000 Big Draw event organisers** who took part in the Festival in 2015 were invited to enter the awards. Entries were received from all over the world, including **Hungary, India, California, Singapore, and Argentina**.
- Judges included: **Kate Mason** (Director, The Big Draw), **Beth Schneider** (Head of Learning, Royal Academy of Arts), **Steve Moffitt** (CEO, A New Direction), and **Sorrel Hershberg** (Director, The Sorrell Foundation).
- Among this year's winners are a **Records Office from North Yorkshire**, a major **international centre for contemporary art**, **two community arts projects** from Wales, a **festival** in the Netherlands, **three schools**, a **university** and a **museum**.
- A new **Founders Award**, selected by and in honour of Sue Grayson Ford, will be awarded.
- This year, for the first time, the ceremony will take place at **Hoxton Hall** a Grade II* listed Victorian Music Hall, and the only Youth Arts centre in Hackney, London.
- **Drawing activities** will take place and refreshments served between 2-3.30pm.

Today, winners of the international Big Draw Awards will be announced at a ceremony at Hoxton Hall, London. The Big Draw Award winners have been selected by a distinguished

jury from a shortlist of projects that took place as part of The Big Draw Festival 2015, which was launched by author Philip Pullman, and Children's Laureate Chris Riddell, on September 19 in Oxford.

Winners include: **NEATEN** and **BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art**, Gateshead; **Coast Lines**, Pembrokeshire; **Oasis Cardiff**, Wales; **The Big Draw Nijmegen**, Netherlands; **Booth Museum of Natural History** and **The Drawing Circus**, Brighton & Hove; **North Yorkshire County Records Office**; **John Jamieson School**, Leeds; **Sharp Lane Primary**, Leeds; **Ben Jonson Primary**, Tower Hamlets, London; and **Ravensbourne**, Greenwich Peninsula, London.

Kate Mason, Director, The Big Draw commented:

"The winners of The Big Draw Awards 2016 have once again demonstrated the power of the universal language of drawing to break down cultural barriers, to build connections across generations and to serve as a tool for learning, expression and invention.

We'd like to thank everyone who took part in The Big Draw Festival for their wonderful projects, and we welcome you to join us in October for The STEAM Powered Big Draw Festival 2016."

Sorrel Hershberg, Director, The Sorrell Foundation commented:

"It was a great pleasure to be a judge for the Big Draw Awards. I was so impressed by the standard of the entries, and how inventive the schools and organisations had been to make their events distinctive as well as truly engaging for their participants."

The Big Draw Awards reward drawing without borders – activities that extend our definitions of drawing and audiences by being both experimental and inclusive. The prizes are donated by the Barbara Whatmore Charitable Trust, which has supported the Awards for 11 years. A new prize has also been sponsored by GreatArt for Arts Clubs and Societies - they have also generously donated £200 GreatArt vouchers for each winning school. NADFAS also sponsors a prize for the best event by, and for, young people.

Anyone can organize an event for The Big Draw Festival, and every organizer is eligible to apply for an Award. The STEAM Powered Big Draw Festival 2016 will take place from 1-31 October. Visit www.thebigdraw.org to find out more.

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Notes to Editors

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1. The Big Draw

Founded in 2000, **The Big Draw** (formally The Campaign for Drawing) is an arts education charity that promotes visual literacy and the universal language of drawing as a tool for

learning, expression and invention. Through a diversified programme encompassing advocacy, empowerment and engagement, the charity runs events such as The Big Draw Festival, educational conferences and collaborative research projects, awards and competitions. www.thebigdraw.org

2. The Big Draw Festival

Launched in 2000, **The Big Draw Festival** has encouraged over three million people back to the drawing board. It has notched up two world records – for the longest drawing in the world (one kilometre) and the greatest number of people drawing simultaneously (over 7,000). The Big Draw has transformed national museums, Trafalgar Square, and even the South Kensington underground tunnel into dynamic creative spaces enjoyed by thousands of people for a day.

Every year, The Big Draw Festival includes hundreds of drawing activities in schools, galleries, museums, libraries, heritage sites, village halls and town squares. In 2015, the festival launch took place in 10 leading cultural institutions across Oxford. There were events by more than **1000 organisers on seven continents**, engaging around **400,000 people**. The 2016 theme, The STEAM powered Big Draw Festival 2016, is part of the charity's campaign to give the arts subjects parity with Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, so that STEM becomes STEAM. www.thebigdraw.org.

3. The Big Draw Awards

The Awards ceremony will take place from 2.15 to 6.30pm on Thursday 26 May at Hoxton Hall, a Grade II* listed Victorian Music Hall, 130 Hoxton Street, London N1 6SH.

Special guests include award-winning artist, **Tanya Raabe-Webber**, and **Frances Quinn**, Designer, winner of The Great British Bake Off 2013 and ambassador of The Big Draw.

The Big Draw Awards have been made possible by the Barbara Whatmore Charitable Trust. GreatArt have kindly sponsored a new prize for Arts Clubs and Societies and £200 vouchers for each winning school. The Young People's Award is sponsored by NADFAS.

4. The Big Draw Award Winners

GreatArt prize for Clubs and Societies (Prize of £500 in GreatArt vouchers)

Winner: NEATEN (NE Art Teacher/Educator Network) and BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead.

Contact: Susan Coles

Overview: Four events planned for over 500 teachers and educators to share knowledge and expertise as well as support others in developing their own ideas.

<http://www.balticmill.com/learn/teacher-network-events>

New Founders Award (Prize of £500)

Winner: Coast Lines, Pembrokeshire, South West Wales

Contact: Lizzy Stonhold

Overview: Four different styles of workshops, involving around 300 people, dedicated to observing the surroundings and landscape of local area and expressing one's own appreciation through drawing.

<http://www.coastlines.cymru/>

Guest Panellist's Choice (Prize of £250)

Winner: Oasis Cardiff, Cardiff, Wales

Contact: Mari Lowe

Overview: As part of a Heritage Lottery Funded project, Refugee Wales, participants collected stories from Refugees, and built a paper house whilst asking the question 'what does it mean to have a home?'.
<http://oasiscardiff.org/>

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International Award (Prize of £250)

Winner: The Big Draw Nijmegen, Netherlands

Contact: Anita Waltman

Overview: A four-day drawing festival with 40 creative activities, about 100 artists and involving 5000 people.

<http://www.thebigdrawnijmegen.nl/>

Museums and Galleries Award (Prize of £750)

Winner: Booth Museum of Natural History, Brighton & Hove

Contact: Jake Spicer

Overview: A collaborative event by the Booth Museum of Natural History and The Drawing Circus which encouraged 110 adults to bring the story of the collection and its eccentric founder, Victorian naturalist Edward Booth to life, with models and performers with the help of theatrical life drawing programme.

<http://brightonmuseums.org.uk/booth/>

Community, Participatory and Libraries Award (Prize of £750)

Winner: North Yorkshire County Records Office

Contact: Emily Ward

Overview: An event for encouraging the participants to create their own maps and stories of North Yorkshire county through creative drawing.

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/23584/County-record-office>

Secondary School Award (£750, plus £200 in GreatArt vouchers)

Winner: John Jamieson School, Leeds

Contact: Alison Innes

Overview: A series of events and workshops designed for people who have medical and physical challenges. The activities provided strong sensory feedback and use The Voyage, The Island, and The Celebration as starting points.

<http://www.eastsilc.org>

Primary School Award (1/2) (Prize of £500, plus £200 in GreatArt vouchers)

Winner: Sharp Lane Primary, Leeds

Contact: Holly Wilson

Overview: Ambassadors were chosen from each class to visit the exhibition, in order to feedback their experiences in school. Using this feedback as a starting point, classes took part in various activities, as drawing from verbal description, drawing famous black history figures in the style of LYB, speed figure drawing in various mediums, drawing emotions in string and sound in shapes to water colour portraits using a restricted colour pallet.

<http://www.sharplane.leeds.sch.uk/>

Primary School Award (2/2) (Prize of £500, plus £200 in GreatArt vouchers)

Winner: Ben Jonson Primary, Tower Hamlets, London

Contact: Lynne Roberts

Overview: The children all learnt about African symbol mark making over a long period then came together to all draw their own unique mark.

<http://www.benjonson.towerhamlets.sch.uk/>

NADFAS Young People Awards (Prize of £1000, plus £200 in GreatArt vouchers)

Winner: Ravensbourne, Greenwich Peninsula, London

Contact: Katharina Koall

Overview: A workshop for 250 students to understand current drawing practices, affirm the essential role of drawing across the curriculum and experiment them in their own way by making a portrait of a degree student.

<http://www.ravensbourne.ac.uk/>