

The Big Draw

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The Big Draw in partnership with **The Guild of St. George** and **The Pilgrim Trust**.

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use: Tuesday 26 April 2016

The John Ruskin Prize Exhibition, Recording Britain Now: Society

Private View: Thursday 5 May 2016, 6 - 9pm

Exhibition Dates: 6 - 21 May 2016

Address: Trinity Buoy Wharf, 64 Orchard Place, London, E14 0JY

Exhibition open: 12 noon – 6pm daily (or by appointment: contact rachel@thebigdraw.org)

Admission: Free

Regeneration: Who is it For?: Thursday 19 May (7.30 - 9.30pm, doors: 6.30pm); £5. [[link](#)]

Drawing the Line: Saturday 21 May (Part 1: 12 - 2pm, Part 2: 3 - 5pm); £7.50/£5 concessions. [[link](#)]

Exhibition ‘Recording Britain Now: Society’ opens in London’s Docklands

On 6 May, The John Ruskin Prize 2015/16 exhibition, *Recording Britain Now: Society*, will open at The Electrician’s Gallery at Trinity Buoy Wharf in London’s Docklands, accompanied by an event programme exploring current debates around regeneration in the capital.

Now in its third year, this open exhibition invited emerging and established artists from across the UK to respond to the theme, *Recording Britain Now: Society*. The artworks selected (from over 700 entries) for The 3rd John Ruskin Prize see artists reflect upon and address a diverse range of topics including housing, CCTV, identity, technology and the political climate.

In the same way that *Recording Britain* sought to map familiar townscapes and countryside under threat from World War Two and later from urban development, its contemporary counterpart *Recording Britain Now: Society*, was an invitation to artists across the UK to observe and record our country’s society, which is in a constant state of transition.

The exhibition opened at the New Art Gallery Walsall in February, this year. Now, this London showing aims to open up dialogue with artists and the local community through a series of events exploring regeneration in the capital; featuring appearances by leading regeneration expert, **Eric Reynolds**, **Megan Piper** (Co-Founder, The Line Sculpture Trail) and finalists of The 3rd John Ruskin Prize, **Jessie Brennan** (2nd Prize winner), **Hilary Powell** and **Myles Linley**. Artist talk and open floor discussion, *‘Regeneration: Who is it For’*, will take place on Thursday 19 May. While *Drawing the Line* will see The Big Draw & The Line partner for the ultimate sketch crawl on Saturday 21 May.

For more information about the exhibition and event programme, visit: thebigdraw.org/ruskinprize.

ENDS

Contact

Amy Clancy (Press and Communications Officer, The Big Draw) for further information, comments, images and interviews.

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#ruskinprize

Notes to editor

1. Exhibition - *Recording Britain Now: Society*

This exhibition is free and will run from 6 - 21 May 2016 at The Electrician's Shop Gallery, Trinity Buoy Wharf (Private View: 6 - 9pm, 5 May). Open: 12 noon - 6 pm daily, or by appointment: contact Rachel Price at rachel@thebigdraw.org.

Nearest DLR: East India (10 minute signposted walk to Trinity Buoy Wharf). Bus number 277 (alight at the Town Hall on the north side of East India (DLR) station). A designated boat service called the Predator runs from the O2 QEII Pier to Trinity Buoy Wharf Jubilee Pier. For timings of the Predator and more information, please visit:

<http://www.trinitybuoywharf.com/visit-us>

2. 'Regeneration: Who is it For'

This artist talk and open floor discussion will be led by finalists of The 3rd John Ruskin Prize, **Jessie Brennan** (2nd Prize winner) and **Hilary Powell**, on Thursday 19 May. **Eric Reynolds**, Founding Director of Urban Space Management, will join the panel for localised discussion on Trinity Buoy Wharf and Tower Hamlets.

Both Jessie Brennan and Hilary Powell conduct first hand research and produce work with communities in response to rapid urban regeneration, most recently, in East London. Jessie Brennan will open discussions based on her research on Robin Hood Gardens in Poplar, which resulted in her prize-winning artworks. There will also be a screening of Hilary Powell's *A-Z of The Lea Valley* in the making, which offers a comprehensive review of the history of The Lea Valley's rapid stages of transition over the years. <http://www.thebigdraw.org/regeneration-who-is-it-for>

3. Drawing the Line

This event will see The Big Draw & The Line partner for the ultimate sketch crawl on Saturday 21 May. Beginning with a tour and urban sketch crawl of *The Line* along the Greenwich Peninsula (12 - 2pm), and followed by a tour of The 3rd John Ruskin Prize exhibition - *Recording Britain Now: Society*, with complimentary refreshments (3 - 5pm). It also includes a visit and introduction to *Longplayer* housed with London's only lighthouse.

With artwork introductions by **Megan Piper** (Co-Founder, The Line Sculpture Trail) and drawing tutorial with 3rd John Ruskin Prize finalist **Myles Linley** this is billed as "an exciting

opportunity for sculpture lovers, urban explorers and people looking for a unique day out in one of London's most exciting creative quarters". www.thebigdraw.org/drawing-the-line

4. The John Ruskin Prize

In 2012, **The Guild of St. George** renewed its links with the Campaign for Drawing (now The Big Draw) to inaugurate **The John Ruskin Prize** - open to all artists over 18 working in the UK. The Prize allows us to promote and give exposure to the work of emerging artists using a wide range of media and techniques. It aims to uphold Ruskin's belief that drawing helps us see the world more clearly – its fragility as much as its beauty and magnificence. The winning artist is awarded a cash prize to help further their practice and all shortlisted artists are offered a place in an exhibition at a high profile public gallery.

The first John Ruskin Prize exhibition, **A New Look at Nature**, was successfully shown in Brantwood, Ruskin's former Lake District home. The second, **Recording Britain Now**, was shown in Sheffield's Millennium Gallery for five months, accompanying the V&A tour of **Recording Britain**. In November 2014, it had a second showing at London's Trinity Buoy Wharf, now the home of The Big Draw.

5. The John Ruskin Prize 2015/16

The 2015 prize encouraged artists to respond to the theme, **Recording Britain Now: Society**, by focusing on prevalent contemporary social issues. Similar to the way that, 75 years ago, **Recording Britain** mapped familiar townscapes and countryside under threat, this was an invitation to engage with a society in rapid transition, and offered today's artists the opportunity to join the ranks of well-known earlier commentators on the state of the nation.

This year, with support from The Guild of St. George and The Pilgrim Trust, The John Ruskin Prize award totaled £8,000. The winner, **Laura Oldfield Ford**, received £5,000, runner-up, **Jessie Brennan**, £2,000, and the new £1,000 student prize was awarded to **Robin Sukatorn**.

The selection panel: **Adam Dant** (Artist), **Gill Saunders** (Senior Curator of Prints, Victoria & Albert Museum), **Stephen Snoddy** (Director, The New Art Gallery Walsall), **Sue Grayson Ford** (Founder, The Big Draw) and **Peter Miller** (Director of Publications, Guild of St George).

6. The shortlisted artists

Dominic Negus, Hilary Powell, Julian Bovis, Nathan Ford, Michelle Heron, Michael Johnson, Nettie Wakefield, Sally Cutler, Susie Hamilton, Stephanie Grainger, Joe Munro, Teresa Robertson, Julia Midgley, Graham Martin, David Borrington, Duncan Wood, Jessie Brennan, Peter Haugh, Timothy Betjeman, Tanya Wood, Anne Guest, Oliver Jones, Myles Linley, Cherry Pickles, Georgia Wisbey, Emily Vanns, Emma Wilde, Laura Oldfield Ford, Robin Sukatorn, and Tony Kenyon.

Ruskin Prize Editions, featuring limited edition prints by shortlisted artists, are now available to purchase at: <http://www.bigdrawshop.co.uk/collections/ruskin-prize-editions>.

7. The Big Draw

The Big Draw is an arts education charity, which raises the profile of visual literacy and the value of drawing as a tool for thought, creativity, social and cultural engagement. The Big

Draw was launched in 2000, by The Guild of St George, the charity founded by John Ruskin in 1871, becoming an independent arts education charity in 2006. In addition to running The John Ruskin Prize and a visual literacy programme, the charity is the founder and driving force behind the world's biggest celebration of drawing, The Big Draw Festival. <http://www.thebigdraw.org/the-big-draw>