

# The Big Draw Press Release

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

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## UK Artists are Recording Britain Now for National Art Prize

Across the UK, emerging and established artists are recording the state of the nation for a chance to win The John Ruskin Prize 2015.

Hosted by arts education charity, The Big Draw, The John Ruskin Prize encourages artists to respond to the theme, *Recording Britain Now: Society*, to re-assess their practice and focus on the prevalent social issues of 2015/16. In the same way that 75 years ago *Recording Britain* sought to map familiar townscapes and countryside under threat, this will be an invitation to engage with a society in rapid transition, and presents a unique opportunity to join the ranks of earlier well-known commentators on the state of the nation.

With support from The Pilgrim Trust, and a renewed partnership with The Guild of St. George the winning prize fund has increased to £5,000, and two new prizes have been introduced: The runner up prize of £2,000 and a student prize of £1,000. The winners will be selected by prestigious panel of judges, including official election artist, Adam Dant.

Alongside 15 shortlisted artists, the winners will be included in a high profile exhibition at The New Art Gallery, Walsall in early 2016 closely followed by a London showing at The Electrician's Shop Gallery set within the unique surrounds of Trinity Buoy Wharf, London. The exhibitions will be accompanied by a series of talks and events linking with the V&A's 'Recording Britain' collection and all shortlisted artists will be invited for inclusion in a catalogue featuring both collections.

Deadline for entries is 23 November 2015. For more information visit:  
[www.thebigdraw.org/ruskinprize](http://www.thebigdraw.org/ruskinprize)

**ENDS**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Contact Amy Clancy (Press and Communications Officer, The Campaign for Drawing) for further information, comments, images and interviews.

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**1. The Big Draw** is an independent arts education charity, which raises the profile 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, a small charity founded by John Ruskin in 1871. In addition to running The John Ruskin Prize and a visual literacy programme, the charity also hosts the annual, international Big Draw festival.

**2. The John Ruskin Prize** was inaugurated in 2012 by The Guild of St. George and The Campaign for Drawing. It aims to uphold Ruskin's belief that drawing helps us see the world more clearly and be more aware of its fragility. The Prize allows us to promote and give exposure to the work of emerging artists using a wide range of media and techniques. Now in its third year, **The John Ruskin Prize** is establishing itself as a showcase for emerging talent and established artists from all reaches of the UK.

The 1st John Ruskin Prize exhibition, ***A New Look at Nature***, was successfully shown in Brantwood, Ruskin's former Lake District home. The 2<sup>nd</sup>, ***Recording Britain Now***, was shown in Sheffield's Millennium Gallery for five months accompanying the V&A tour of ***Recording Britain***. In November it had a second showing at London's Trinity Buoy Wharf.

**3.** Now in its third year, **The John Ruskin Prize 2015** is dedicated to the theme of contemporary society. It open to all amateur and professional artists 18 years and over, living and working in the UK. All artwork in 2D media is accepted, relief work and book art are also eligible. Time-based media and sculpture is not eligible.

#### **4. 2015 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** (Director, The Campaign for Drawing)
- **Clive Wilmer** (Master, The Guild of St. George)