

# THE BIG DRAW

## PRESS RELEASE



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## The Big Draw Festival 2018 Award Winners Announced

Today, global visual literacy charity The Big Draw announces the winners of the annual Big Draw Festival Awards 2018/19. The Big Draw Award winners have been selected by a distinguished jury from a shortlist of projects that took place as part of Big Draw Festival 2018 celebrating 'Play'. Every year, The Big Draw Festival Awards celebrate drawing and creativity without borders.

The Big Draw Festival now has a presence in over 26 countries. This year's Big Draw Festival winners include organisations from all over the world, including Italy, Africa and Japan.

### Highlights from The Big Draw Festival 2018 winners include:

- Primary School winners (1 of 2) **Braeburn School Gitanga Road, Nairobi, Africa** whose energetic exploration of the 2018 theme 'play' involved over 700 students channelling their inner Pollack with outdoor 'action art' activities employing water guns, balloons, tyres, balls, string sculptures, Zentangles and dancing with paint.
- An ambitious material exchange between Big Draw organisers in *Bewdley, UK* and *Yoyogi Park, Japan*. Led by the **Ruskin in Wyre** project with artists Hilary Baker (UK) and Divya Mariekato (Japan), '*Drawing Together*' saw simultaneous outdoor events at the respective sites with an exchange of cultural crafts and their associated materials and tools with drawing exercises responding to their natural environments.
- Second time Secondary School Award winners **Kingsdale Foundation School (UK)** explored synesthetic experience by employing the school's Junior Steel Band, pens as drumsticks and rhythm as inspiration they experimented with drawing sound. As music, drama, dance and art departments collaborated the drawing rule book was thrown out the window.
- First time award winners **Mercury Mall, Romford, UK** impressed the selection panel with their true commitment to accessible arts projects for all. Led by Mercury's event organiser Natalie Bays and a host of local artists, activities enjoyed by over 585 visitors of all ages, included a drawn celebration of International Woman's Day, drawing and storytelling sessions combining traditional and visual literacies designed for children with special educational needs, a two day fashion illustration workshop and a 'Mary

Poppin's inspired street painting mural event.

**Kate Mason, Director of The Big Draw comments:**

*"Once again for 'PLAY 2018' our pioneering Big Draw Festival event organisers created a cornucopia of delights. Every year I reach for words to describe their ingenuity and imagination – always wanting to not only celebrate their quality and creativity but also underline their crucial role as champions of the importance of visual literacy. Sometimes the simplest of statements are the most powerful – so suffice to say that it is all of you who embody our work and the reason The Big Draw exists. It is you – our determined event organisers who challenge, innovate, spark debate and create. You who inspire us and help us to articulate what we believe is an increasingly vital role in an ecology and education framework which continues to undervalue cultural learning, arts, crafts and design education and visual literacy. Thank you to you all and also our esteemed panel of judges."*

The selection day was held earlier this year at Foster + Partner's impressive London HQ. The 2018 Big Draw Festival Award judges are: **Dominic Wilcox** (artist, designer and Chief Inventor at 'Little Inventors'), **Marlene Wiley** (Creative Education Consultant and Facilitator) , **Kate Mason** (Director, The Big Draw) and **Liz Atkin** (artist, mental health advocate and Big Draw Ambassador), alongside Big Draw Patron **Narinder Sagoo** (Art Director, Foster+Partners).

**Marlene Wylie, 2018 Awards panellist comments:**

*"Being asked to join the judging panel for the world's biggest drawing festival this year has been a great honour, made even more special by the awesome and prestigious venue and wonderful panellist with whom I shared this hugely uplifting experience."*

*I was greatly encouraged to see that this event continues to inspire the high level of commitment, engagement and fun manifested in the entries submitted by a diverse range of creative groups, organisations and schools worldwide."*

Organisers, including schools, libraries, museums, artists, local councils and community centres impressed our panel of judges and The Big Draw team with their fun, unique and experimental approaches to the 2018 Festival theme **'Play'**, giving Big Draw Festival visitors opportunities to loosen their approaches to drawing, embrace happy accidents and experiment with materials and ideas. The ingenuity of organisers' events demystified the idea that 'play' isn't just for kids, opening doors to the potential of drawing-for-the-fun-of-it for hundreds of thousands of participants worldwide.

More importantly than ever, with the continued decline of arts provision for all in education, The Big Draw commends all schools who demonstrate the power of drawing and creativity, not only across the curriculum, but within their communities. The staff and students of the 3 school winners this year are leading lights to show the importance and impact of a creative education.

Alongside the 6 panel selected awards, The Big Draw hosts one award which is determined by public vote: Inaugurated in 2017, *The People's Choice Award* is selected entirely by Big Draw visitor nominations. This year, from over 250 nominations received, with a massive 20% of the public vote, the 2018 People's Choice Award winner is **24H**

## ***Drawing Lab, Rome, Italy.***

From applications received from all over the world, The Big Draw would like to thank everyone who applied for the awards and took part in The Big Draw Festival 2018.

## **ENDS**

## **CONTACT**

For further information, comments, images and interviews, or to request a press pass for the launch event or awards ceremony:

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### ***The Big Draw Festival***

Launched in October 2000, The Big Draw Festival has encouraged over four 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 first Big Draw Festival in 2000 attracted 180 partner organisations. Since then, the number had risen to over 1,000, with over 400,000 people participating each year. What began as a one day celebration of drawing in October 2000 in the UK, is now an annual festival of drawing across the world. Whilst the official Festival month is still October, organisers now run events all throughout the year!

To find your nearest event or find out more about organising one visit: [www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org)

### ***The Big Draw Awards***

The Big Draw Awards recognise innovation, resourcefulness, widening participation and engagement with the universal language of drawing and the annual theme. The theme for 2018 celebrated 'Play'.

Anyone can organise an event for The Big Draw Festival, and every organiser is eligible to apply for an Award. Registration is now open for those wishing to participate in this year's Big Draw Festival 2019 'Drawn To Life', focusing on the vital role of creativity for our health and wellbeing. As 'social prescribing' gains greater recognition as an effective tool for living a healthier and happier life, creating opportunities for accessible, fun, creative events has become more important than ever.

Visit [www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org) to find out more

### ***The Big Draw Festival 2018 Award Winners***

Primary School Award

Winner [1]: **Braeburn School Gitanga Road, Nairobi, Africa**

Primary School Award

Winner [2]: **St Georges CE Primary, Worcester, UK**

Secondary School Award

Winner: **Kingsdale Foundation School, London, UK**

Art Clubs and Societies Award

Winner: **Ruskin in Wyre and the Guild of St George in partnership with Wyre Community Land Trust, Worcestershire (UK), in partnership with Tokyo arts group, led by Divya Mariekato (Japan)**

Community, Participatory and Libraries

Award Winner [1]: **Mercury Mall, Romford, Essex**

Community, Participatory and Libraries Award

Winner [2]: **Ynyshir Primary School, Wales, UK (with Workers Gallery & RCT Arts Services)**

Museums and Galleries Award

Winner: **Hauser & Wirth, Somerset, UK**

Guest Panellist's Choice Award

Winner: **Strong Close Nursery, West Yorkshire, UK**

People's Choice Award

Winner: **24H Drawing Lab, Rome, Italy**

### ***The Big Draw***

Founded in 2000, The Big Draw is a visual literacy charity that promotes the universal language of drawing as a tool for learning, expression and invention. The charity leads a diverse programme of advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival – the world's biggest celebration of drawing.

The Big Draw manages collaborative research projects, campaigns and educational conferences on visual literacy, digital technology and STEAM. The charity supports professional and emerging artists through its national contemporary art prize, The John Ruskin Prize and exhibition, and through events, awards, and competitions, creates platforms for each and everyone who wants to draw.

[www.thebigdraw.org](http://www.thebigdraw.org) | [www.ruskinprize.co.uk](http://www.ruskinprize.co.uk)