



The World Illustration Awards return to Somerset House this August

WORLD ILLUSTRATION AWARDS 2016 EXHIBITION

1 August – 29 August 2016

Embankment East Galleries, Somerset House

Free Admission

The Association of Illustrators, in partnership with the Directory of Illustration in California, and Somerset House in central London, is delighted to announce the 2016 World Illustration Awards exhibition, which will be held in Somerset House's Embankment East Galleries in August.

This unique exhibition, now in its 40th year, presents over 50 of the very best artworks across the diverse field of illustration. Selected from submissions to this year's World Illustration Awards, the breadth of work is celebrated across 8 categories, including advertising, children's books, editorial and public art. The shortlisted and winning pieces comprise posters, book illustrations, animations and GIFs to sculptural pieces and textiles.

Entries were received from 66 countries and while a number of the entries exhibited are from the UK and America, there is also a strong representation from South Korea, Australia, Israel, China, Japan and illustrators across Europe.

Curator Sabine Reimer said: "Submissions can give an indication of the current themes preoccupying illustrators. This year is notable for darker, more challenging work, exploring areas such as the refugee crisis. The exhibition balances these serious works, such as **David Foldvari's** evocative image of the migrant crisis commissioned by Save the Children, with lighter works such as **Richard Lewington's** stunning depictions of bees for Royal Mail and **Levente Szabo's** arresting BAFTA Award brochures".

Also of note is **Balbusso Twins' Portrait of Richard II** commissioned by Penguin Press for its series of books on Britain's kings and queens. **Ella Cohen's Playground Israel** image, commissioned by Berlin based Theater an der Parkaue and the Israeli Embassy, exemplifies the ability of illustration to communicate compellingly across boundaries.

Two overall winners will be announced by illustrator **David Hughes** at the awards evening on Wednesday 3 August. David is himself an award winning illustrator and most recently author of the brilliant and disturbing *The Pillbox* graphic novel. David is a Patron of the Association of Illustrators.

While the exhibition offers an invaluable oversight of the sector, it is also an accessible celebration of our increasingly image led society. Staged for the first time over the summer holidays, a children's trail is included free of charge and a programme of events will provide additional ways to explore the exhibition, offering an inexpensive and enjoyable day out for the family.

The World Illustration Awards exhibition is complemented by Somerset House's focus on print and illustration throughout August. The Summer Screen Prints exhibition with Print Club London is also on show and free to visit until 17 August.

The WIA 2016 exhibition will tour the UK throughout the year.

For more information please contact:

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Notes to the editor:

Listings information

Dates: 1 August - 29 August 2016

Opening Hours: Daily, 10am to 6pm

Admission: Free

Address: Embankment East Galleries, South Wing, Somerset House, London WC2R 1LA

Transport: Temple, Embankment, Charing Cross, Waterloo

Somerset House Facebook: www.facebook.com/SomersetHouse

Somerset House Instagram: @SomersetHouseLondon

Somerset House Twitter: @SomersetHouse

The AOI Facebook: www.facebook.com/theaoi

The AOI Twitter: @theaoi

The AOI Instagram: @theaoi

The Directory of Illustration Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DirIllustration>

The Directory of Illustration Twitter: @DirIllustration

Exhibition Hashtag: #WIA2016

Somerset House Public Enquiries: 020 7845 4600

About The Association of Illustrators (AOI)

The Association of Illustrators (AOI) is a non-profit trade association with a membership that includes freelance illustrators, agents, clients, students and colleges. Established in 1973, it is the leading body to represent illustrators in the UK and campaigns for illustrators' rights, continually working to increase the professional standing of illustrators, commercially and artistically. The AOI works to improve contract and contracting practice extended to illustrators by commissioners.

www.theaoi.com

About The Directory of Illustration

The Directory of Illustration is widely regarded as the leading marketing program for illustrators in the United States. Their website and print resources are relied on by qualified art buyers from all over the world when they need to commission illustration.

www.directoryofillustration.com

About Somerset House

Somerset House is a unique part of the London cultural scene, an historic building where surprising and original work comes to life. From its 18th century origins, it has been a centre for debate and

discussion – an intellectual powerhouse for the nation. Today, Somerset House is a key cultural destination in London in which to experience a broad range of artistic activity, engage with artists, designers and makers and be a part of a major creative forum – an environment that is relaxed, welcoming to all and inspirational to visit while providing a stimulating workplace for the cultural and creative industries. Since its opening in 2000, Somerset House has built up a distinctive outdoor public programme including Skate, concerts, an open-air film season and a diverse range of temporary exhibitions throughout the site focusing on contemporary culture including photography, fashion, architecture and design, with an extensive integrated learning programme. We currently attract well over 2 million visitors every year. It is probably the biggest community of creative organisations in London including The Courtauld Gallery and Institute of Art, King's College London Cultural Institute and over 100 other creative businesses.

www.somersethouse.org.uk.