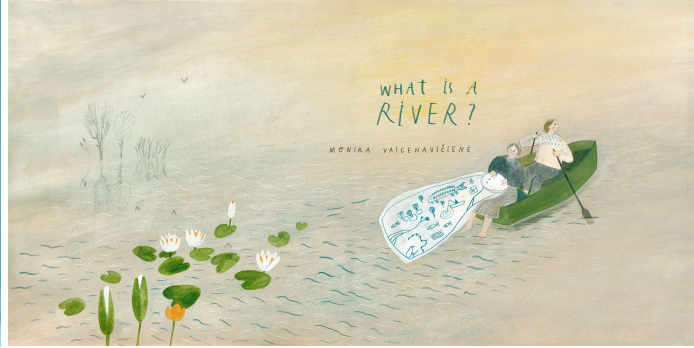


World Illustration Awards Overall Winners Announced



images from left by Stevie Gee, Monika Vaicenaviciene

EMBARGOED TO 8 JUNE 2018

Stella McCartney Packaging and Children's Book declared Overall Winners of the World Illustration Awards 2018

The Association of Illustrators (The AOI), in partnership with the Directory of Illustration, is delighted to announce Stevie Gee as the Professional Overall Winner and Monika Vaicenaviciene as the New Talent Winner. Stevie is awarded £2,000 and Monika £1,000, courtesy of sponsor rOtring.

Stevie Gee's work is used on new packaging for Stella McCartney Kids underwear range and was shared on their social media channels. Stella McCartney's team asked Stevie Gee for a fun and interactive approach to the boxes where each side had a different body part or face so that when stacked they would create a multitude of brilliantly bizarre characters.

Stevie Gee, represented by Blink Art says *"I drew them in my usual way - lots of hair, bright colours and silly stuff. I was keen they weren't all just happy and sunny vibes so there's a melting head, sad faced skateboarding skeleton, dopey eyes and angry mouths in there too. I drew all the linework in black ink and the colour was applied in photoshop using my own palette combined with some specific Stella brand Pantones."*

Sweden-based illustrator Monika Vaicenaviciene won with her illustrations for 'What is A River?' in the Children's Book Category. Monika says *"In today's world I think it is important to talk about the neighbourhood of people and nature. I decided to make a book that would tell about many beautiful and harmful relations we have with our environment and I chose rivers as my subject because of many interesting geographical, cultural and mythological associations. I wanted to balance both factually accurate and poetic storytelling."*

Stevie Gee is also a winner in the Advertising Category for his Here to Create campaign for Adidas, winning a total of three awards in this year's World Illustration Awards.

The winners can be seen alongside the full shortlist in a colourful, thought-provoking and inspiring exhibition at Somerset House from 7 – 20 June. The shortlist has been selected by the jury from a record 3,300 entries from 75 countries. The exhibition is punctuated by insights from judges and industry leaders such as Quentin Blake and Sir John Hegarty, including *"Illustration*

sets the imagination free" (Sir John Hegarty (AOI Patron)) *and Illustration aims to illuminate. It brings to light the words of writers and clarifying ideas to the world."* (Jasper Wong, WIA judge).

The exhibition, held in Somerset House's Embankment Galleries, is the largest World Illustration Awards show to date, showcasing the full shortlist of 200 works. It explores what illustration means today, how it shapes our world and charts how the art form itself is changing. At once global and personal, visitors can expect to be inspired by this diverse, engaging exhibition. This annual survey of the best illustration globally will explore where illustration is now, and where it is heading in the future. As WIA judge Rob Alderson of WeTransfer says *"in a visual culture dominated by photography, illustration provides a deliciously different way to see the world."*

The full shortlist can be viewed at theaoi.com/wia

The exhibition is designed by Uniform, a leading creative agency working in Liverpool and London. Ali Vermilio, Creative Director London, says "it's an inspiring task to present such a diverse and engaging exhibition."

The World Illustration Awards 2018 Exhibition will tour the UK throughout the year.

More information on www.theaoi.com

For more information please contact:
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Notes to the editor:

Listings information

Dates: 7 – 20 June 2018

Opening Hours: Saturday-Tuesday: 10am-6pm; Wednesday-Friday: 11am-8pm

Admission: Free

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

Transport: Underground: Temple, Embankment; National Rail: Charing Cross, Waterloo

Somerset House Facebook: www.facebook.com/SomersetHouse

Somerset House Instagram: [@SomersetHouse](https://www.instagram.com/SomersetHouse)

Somerset House Twitter: [@SomersetHouse](https://twitter.com/SomersetHouse)

The AOI Facebook: www.facebook.com/theaoi

The AOI Twitter: [@theaoi](https://twitter.com/theaoi)

The AOI Instagram: [@theaoi](https://www.instagram.com/theaoi)

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

The Directory of Illustration Twitter: [@DirIllustration](https://twitter.com/DirIllustration)

Exhibition Hashtag: #WIA2018

Somerset House Public Enquiries: 020 7845 4600

About Somerset House

Inspiring contemporary culture

A unique part of the London cultural scene, Somerset House is an historic building where surprising and original work comes to life. From its 18th-century origins, Somerset House has been a centre for debate and discussion – an intellectual powerhouse for the nation. Somerset House is today 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, 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, with an extensive learning programme attached. In October

2016, Somerset House launched Somerset House Studios, a new experimental workspace connecting artists, makers and thinkers with audiences. The Studios provide a platform for new creative projects and collaboration, promoting work that pushes bold ideas, engages with urgent issues and pioneers new technologies. Somerset House is also one of 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. It currently attracts approximately 3.4 million visitors every year. www.somersethouse.org.uk

The World Illustration Awards

The WIA are presented by The Association of Illustrators in partnership with the Directory of Illustration (USA) with Somerset House as the exhibition partner. There are eight award categories including Advertising, sponsored by Procreate; Books, category sponsored by NoBrow; Children's Books, category sponsored by Walker Books; and Editorial, category sponsored by Eye magazine. Each category has a new talent and professional winner, with two overall winners announced on the awards night in June. The two overall winners will be awarded cash prizes, courtesy of rOtring. The AOI has been holding an annual illustration competition for over 40 years.

The World Illustration Awards 2018 are supported by:

Exhibition design by [Uniform](#)

Overall Winner Prizes courtesy of [rOtring](#)

Advertising Category sponsor: [Procreate](#)

Children's Book Category sponsor: [Walker Books](#)

Books Category sponsor: [No Brow Press](#)

Editorial Category Sponsor: [Eye Magazine](#)

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[London Book Fair](#)

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The Association of Illustrators (AOI) is the UK's leading illustration body supporting and sustaining illustrators and the illustration industry. Established in 1973 the AOI offers members professional advice, online resources and a growing programme of events. The AOI has successfully to increase the standing of illustration as a profession and improve commercial and ethical conditions. With a membership that includes freelance illustrators, agents, students and colleges the AOI continues to support and educate future generations at every stage of their career.

www.theaoi.com

The Directory of Illustration is widely regarded as the world's leading marketing program for illustrators. Their website and print resources are relied on by thousands of qualified art buyers when they need to commission illustration.

www.directoryofillustration.com