



The World Illustration Awards 2019 Exhibition Returns to Somerset House this Summer



11 - 28 July 2019

Free entry

**Embankment East Galleries
Somerset House
Strand
London WC2R 1LA**

The Association of Illustrators (The AOI), in partnership with the Directory of Illustration, is delighted to announce the return of the popular World Illustration Awards exhibition to Somerset House this summer. Featuring all 200 entries shortlisted for this year's awards, with in-depth presentations of winning projects, this inspiring exhibition showcases the very best emerging and established illustrations from around the world today.

An independent jury of 24 commissioners and industry insiders including Josephine Kelliher, Art Program Manager at Facebook EMEA, Simon Khalil, Editor at Arab News and Kirstie Johnstone, Creative Production Partner at AMV BBDO, judged over 3,600 submissions from 68 countries in eight categories to select the shortlist.

From book covers to newspapers, packaging to murals, illustration is the visual language of everyday life. This exhibition celebrates this most engaging of art forms in its broadest sense. Showcasing a diverse range of styles, materials and topics, featuring an extraordinary range of illustration practice across vibrant industry sectors including Advertising, Children's Books, Design and Editorial, the exhibition reveals the innovative ideas and techniques at the forefront of illustration today.

Highlighting cutting-edge work, such as a digital wallpaper that changes colour according to the position of the sun, alongside handmade pieces including an embroidered graphic novel, the exhibition features a range of materials and processes. Illustrator Tim Easley impressed the judges with a painstakingly- created circuit board made of plasticine to be used on the record sleeve for the band Modified Man. Olivier Kugler's 'Escaping Wars and Waves - Encounters with Syrian Refugees' humanises the stories of the refugee crisis in a detailed and respectful reportage style. One of the quirkiest projects this year is 'Small but Significant' by Jingtong who created a whole universe out of collage and mixed media connected to her love of potatoes, including a potato museum and the 'Potato Daily' newspaper.

The Category and Overall winners will be announced at an awards ceremony held at Somerset House on 10 July, alongside the winners of three new cross-category awards, including an AOI Members Award, a Directory of Illustration Award, and the Society of Artists Agents Award for New Talent.

More information at theaoi.com/world-illustration-awards/

For more information please contact:
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Press images download from here:
<https://www.dropbox.com/home/WIA2019%20Exhibition%20Announcement>

Notes to the editor:

Listings information

Dates: 11 – 28 July 2019

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 Public Enquiries: 020 7845 4600

Social

Somerset House Facebook: [@SomersetHouse](#)

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The AOI Facebook: [@theaoi](#)

The AOI Twitter: [@theaoi](#)

The AOI Instagram: [@theaoi](#)

The Directory of Illustration Facebook: [@DirIllustration](#)

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Exhibition Hashtags: #WIA2019 #WorldIllustrationAwards

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 communities 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

About 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; Books, category sponsored by NoBrow; Children's Books, category sponsored by Walker Books; and Editorial. Each category has a New Talent and Professional winner, with two Overall Winners announced on the awards night in June. This year there are also cross-category awards, such as the SAA Award for an unrepresented Student, The DI Award for a professional artist and the AOI Award for the best member entry. The two overall winners will be awarded cash prizes. The AOI has been holding an annual illustration competition for over 45 years.

The World Illustration Awards 2019 are supported by

[Workbook](#)

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

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

Cross Category Award sponsor: [Society of Artists Agents](#) (SAA)

[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 support, online resources and a growing programme of events. The AOI has successfully campaigned 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.

[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.