



Press release: for immediate release

World Illustration Awards 2020 shortlist announced!

The AOI, in partnership with the Directory of Illustration, is delighted to announce the 200 projects that have been shortlisted for the World Illustration Awards 2020!

In December 2019, we opened our call to illustrators to *Be Ambitious, Be Seen, Be Celebrated*. An incredible 4,300+ entries were submitted by illustrators from 79 countries into this year's awards. This was followed by a competitive judging process to find the 500 longlisted projects, from which the final shortlist of 200 projects has been selected.

"This year's shortlist reflects the breadth of creative solutions that illustration and animation can deliver, from works that literally walk you through a story using scenes and characters, to pieces with a subtler, conceptual narrative. The power of the medium is truly on display here" – Elizabeth Owen, President, Directory of Illustration

The judging panel including industry names such as D.W. Pine from TIME, illustrator Axel Scheffler, and Erich Nagler, Lead Art Director for Google Doodles, has selected the shortlist which includes projects from all 10 categories by both New Talent and Professional Illustrators from across the globe. Exploration category judge, writer, and co-founder of Yellowzine, Aisha Ayoade commented:

"This competition receives submissions from a wide breadth of creatives with outstanding levels of skill and great control of their craft. Even when artists respond to the same category or tap into similar emotions through their work, each submission tells a unique story with a unique voice and though it's been very difficult to choose, it has been a joy to explore."

All works from the shortlist will be featured in our new Online Showcase from September 2020, offering an exciting insight into the stories behind the projects, and commissioner and industry insights into the shortlist. The category and overall winners will be announced on 21 October, launching an exciting online Celebration Programme exploring different aspects of the illustration industry through online events and presentations

The World Illustration Awards is a year-long celebration and showcase of illustration, bringing together creatives, industry, commissioners and art directors, supporting our global illustration community to thrive more than ever.

The full shortlist can be viewed on The AOI website at: www.theaoi.com/wia

[Download Press kit images from here:](#)

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wwwx8re9t1kc7w0/AAzEyR4x6a-dj7-g752AoDFa?dl=0>

Contact information

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Or visit our website: theaoi.com/world-illustration-awards

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WIA Hashtags: #WIA2020 and #WorldIllustrationAwards

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Notes to Editor

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About The World Illustration Awards

The WIA are presented by The Association of Illustrators in partnership with the *Directory of Illustration* (USA). There are ten award categories including Advertising, Editorial, Children's Publishing, and Design, Product & Packaging. There are new categories, including Book Covers and Science & Technology in 2020.

The AOI announced a longlist of 500 projects in Spring 2020, and a shortlist of 200 projects in Summer 2020. Each category has a New Talent and Professional winner, with 20 Category Winners and two Overall Winners announced at the online Awards Ceremony in October 2020.

Four Cross-Category Awards, such as the SAA Award for an unrepresented new talent illustrator, The Directory of Illustration (DI) Award for a professional artist and the AOI Award for the best member entry will also be announced then. There is a new Innovation Award in 2020 celebrating the most ambitious, experimental work, sponsored by It's Nice That. The two Overall Winners will be awarded cash prizes.

The year will be rounded off by an online Celebration Programme including masterclasses and panel discussions as well as social events to allow illustrators, agents and commissioners from around the work to meet, explore and celebrate.

The AOI has been holding an annual illustration competition for over 45 years.

The Association of Illustrators

The Association of Illustrators (AOI) is the world's leading illustration body supporting and sustaining illustrators and the illustration industry. Established in 1973 the AOI offers members from around the world professional support, online resources as well as holding meet ups, webinars and events throughout the UK. 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

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.

The awards are supported by:

