

Press Release 14 May 2015

Willem Weismann named as winner of £10,000 painting prize

**EAST
LONDON
Painting
PRIZE**

Willem Weismann from Tower Hamlets was announced as the winner of the second East London Painting Prize last night (Wednesday 13th May), receiving a cheque for £10,000 and a solo exhibition at the Nunnery Gallery in Bow in the Autumn.

The East London Painting Prize celebrates the incredible talent and diversity of artists living and working in the boroughs of east London. The prize has been created by [Foundation for FutureLondon](#) and [Bow Arts Trust](#), with kind support from the Goldhill Family and the [Zabludowicz Collection](#).

Weismann, age 38, was selected from a shortlist of 23 artists who live or work in east London, by an influential panel including artist and painter Phoebe Unwin; Oliver Basciano, deputy editor of ArtReview; Director of the Zabludowicz Collection Elizabeth Neilson and founder of Launchpad, Sarah Elson.

Willem Weismann's work explores the human condition; people and their relation to their possessions and environments. His winning painting is called *Library Guide*.



Library Guide, oil on canvas, 95 x 80 cm, oil on canvas, 2015. Willem Weismann

Weismann explained: "The work I selected is about the relation between books and painting. Both are a communication of information, and both are physical objects which are pushed to the sideline in an increasingly digital age, where everything is becoming virtual and weightless."

On winning the East London Painting Prize, he commented: "This will allow me to focus on my practice and will give me the freedom to develop and push my art."

Explaining the panel's choice of Weismann, panellist Oliver Basciano, deputy editor of Art Review said: "Choosing Willem was gut instinct. I love the way his paint moves and his show proposal was innovative."

Phoebe Unwin, artist and painter added "I think his work shows an inventive figuration, striking a hard to achieve balance between contemporary life and the history of painting."

Rosamond Murdoch, Director Nunnery Gallery, Bow Arts said: "Willem is a dynamic talent, his ideas clearly finding a voice through his paintbrush – I am very excited to work with him to realise his work for the solo show at the Nunnery Gallery in October."

Claire Gevaux, Creative Director of Foundation for FutureLondon, said: "The boroughs surrounding Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park are home to Europe's largest concentration of artists and arts organisations. Through the East London Painting Prize, we set out to nurture this talent and help some of these outstanding artists to make their mark on the capital's contemporary art scene. We'd like to congratulate Willem, whose work impressed and inspired us all."

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Michael Goldhill, representative of the Goldhill family, said: "We are delighted to have helped create this painting prize in my late father's name for emerging artists, living and working in the East End of London. We hope it will continue to grow in stature within the art community. Once again the remarkable talent has enabled us to present a powerful show and Willem Weismann is a worthy winner."

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

East London Painting Prize shortlist exhibition runs until 17 May.

Open daily 12noon – 6pm

The Rum Factory, Pennington Street Warehouse, London Dock, E1W 2BD

Closest DLR and Overground station Shadwell, closest underground station Tower Hill.

<http://bowarts.org/whats-on/exhibitions-and-events/east-london-painting-prize-shortlist-exhibition>

ABOUT THE PRIZE:

The East London Painting Prize was launched in May 2014 to honour the life and work of painter and philanthropist Jack Goldhill. It was created by The Legacy List, the charity of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (recently merged with Foundation for FutureLondon), and Bow Arts, with kind support from the Goldhill Family and the Zabłudowicz Collection.

The selection panel who chose the winner were: artist and painter Phoebe Unwin (Wilkinson); deputy editor of Art Review, Oliver Basciano; Director of the Zabłudowicz Collection Elizabeth Neilson; founder of Launchpad, Sarah Elson (Contemporary Art Society and Bow Arts Trustee); winner of the East London Painting Prize 2014, Nathan Eastwood; representative of the Goldhill Family, Michael Goldhill and Claire Gevaux, Creative Director of Foundation for FutureLondon.

SUPPORTING THE EAST LONDON PAINTING PRIZE:

The Goldhill Family

A property developer and philanthropist, Jack Goldhill was one of the chief figures in the post-second world war reconstruction of Britain and fittingly, the regeneration of the war damaged east end. A keen amateur artist himself, Goldhill's name is synonymous with arts philanthropy in the UK. He was a major benefactor to national cultural institutions, supporting over 70 charitable organisations for more than four decades, including the Royal Academy of Arts and the Princes Drawing School.

Foundation for FutureLondon

Foundation for FutureLondon is the Olympicopolis charity, realising the ambition of a new cultural and university district on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Incorporating the Victoria and Albert Museum, University of the Arts London and Sadler's Wells, the scheme is expected to deliver £2.8 billion of economic value to Stratford and the surrounding area. The Legacy List has merged with the Foundation for FutureLondon, which will deliver a programme for the advancement of art, culture, education, heritage and science in east London. www.thelegacylist.org.uk / www.future.london

Bow Arts

This year Bow Arts celebrates its twentieth anniversary. Bow Arts is an arts education charity that provides affordable creative workspaces for over 400 emerging artists. Alongside this, Bow Arts manages one of the country's most exciting education programmes, which takes world-class artists into 70 schools to improve the lives and learning of children and young people. Bow Arts runs the Nunnery Gallery, a public gallery that supports a diverse range of high quality exhibitions and events as well as the delivery of a public arts programme, and is home to the Carmelite Café. Established in 1995, Bow Arts holds an important place in east London which is fast becoming known as London's Artist Quarter. For more information, visit www.bowarts.org

St George

St George is proud to be a member of the Berkeley Group and is London's leading mixed use developer, regenerating brownfield land to create thriving new communities in attractive landscaped environments. Since 2000 St George has delivered over 8,730 new homes; over 2,400 of which are affordable; 836,000 sq ft of commercial floor space and 83,000 sq ft of community space, as well as 30 acres of open space. In 2002, St George was the first residential developer to be granted the Queen's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development. The Berkeley Group as a whole received this prestigious accolade in 2008 and again in 2014. Each home St George delivers creates or sustains 5.6 jobs.

ABOUT THE RUM FACTORY:

The Rum Factory in Pennington Street Warehouse is the only substantial building to survive from the former London Dock, which was the first enclosed commercial docks in the capital.

The two-storey, 313 metre long brick-built structure was constructed in phases between 1804 and 1806. It was designed by the Dock's surveyor, the engineer Daniel Alexander, for the storage of imported goods held in bond.

When the area ceased being used as commercial docks in the 1980s, the site was acquired by News International for its newspaper offices and print works. The Pennington Street Warehouse was used for office space and storage facilities. As part of the St George development of London Dock, the Grade II listed building will be restored and brought back into use with an eclectic mix of retail, restaurants, galleries and offices.

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