

**For immediate release**  
**October 2013**



## **YINKA SHONIBARE MBE ANNOUNCES WINNING ARTISTS FOR 'SHAPE OPEN' 2013**

Yinka Shonibare, Patron to Shape, a disability-led arts organisation, announced the winner and runner up to their annual Shape Open exhibition 2013 as Eric Fong, and Katherine Araniello respectively, for their impactful moving image submissions.

Bow Arts is host to this year's Shape Open, an annual call-out which invites international and UK-based artists to submit work in response to a disability focused theme 'Disability Re-assessed'. It is a showcase of multi-disciplinary works from disabled and non-disabled artists including painting, sculpture, textile, digital art and photography.

Artists and visitors filled every corner of the space at the Nunnery Gallery to hear Shape Open Patron Yinka Shonibare MBE, Shape CEO Tony Heaton, and Chief Executive of Bow Arts, Marcel Baettig, announce the winner for 2013.

The winner Eric Fong received first prize and a £500.00 cheque for his moving image piece called 'Reflection', which represents a reflection on identity and disability in the context of facial disfigurement.

Yinka Shonibare MBE, Shape Open Patron says:

'The Shape Open Exhibition provides a fantastic platform for disabled artists to show their work. Such exhibitions offer great opportunities for artists to be discovered by institutions and large audiences. Similar exhibitions have helped to contribute to the development of my own personal career.'

Eric Fong's winning film is piece which plays with perception, and moves between abstraction and reality. What is so impactful here is that it plays with one's own judgment and feelings of how other people might look different to one's own self.'

We chose Katherine as runner-up because her film is funny and I really liked the sense of humour. It plays with stereo-types and the condescending behavior and presumptions towards people with disabilities.'

Eric Fong said:

'I'm really delighted to be a winner of The Shape Open 2013, I think the Nunnery Gallery is a fantastic venue and all the works are really excellent. Like Yinka said 'everybody here today should

## For immediate release October 2013

be a winner'. Shape is a great organisation working to improve access to the arts for disabled people, and they are doing fantastic work; I am proud to be a part of it all.



Eric Fong, winner of The Shape Open 2013. Image courtesy of Andy Barker.

My winning piece is produced in collaboration with an organisation called 'Changing Faces' which supports people with facial disfigurements. The work is a reflection on identity and disability in the context of facial disfigurement and the central message I hope to convey is the importance of self-acceptance, and to encourage people to accept others with facial disfigurements with a sense of equality.'

Katherine Araniello, the runner up and recipient of £150.00 for her moving image submission 'Pity', based her film on a performance piece, which was a parody of charities generating income through emotive images. The soundtrack plays on the theme of 'pity' that is prevalent in the economics of some charities today.

Katherine Araniello said:

'I was absolutely ecstatic to be runner-up! I am extremely pleased there is an audience for the subversive humour that I instil in my work in relation to disability. I trust my film will have an impact on those fortunate enough to see it!'

**For immediate release  
October 2013**



Katherine Araniello, runner up of The Shape Open 2013. Image courtesy of Andy Barker.

Chief Executive of Bow Arts, Marcel Baettig said:

‘The Shape Open this year makes very powerful viewing and the quality of the work really stands out. Shape’s reputation and passion in supporting disabled people in the arts is second to none and we support that 100%. As an organisation, the Nunnery Gallery comes from a history of wanting to be as inclusive as possible to all audiences, so we are delighted to continue our collaboration with Shape.’

## For immediate release October 2013

Baettig goes on to say:

'The winning piece by Eric Fong was sensitively created without falling into the sentimentality trap. It was very well put together, a brilliantly powerful piece. And the second prize, Katherine Araniello's film 'Pity', almost came across as a sketch; it was a really courageous piece which confronted her audience directly about their perceptions and reactions to disability. There are a lot of artists who start to address the audience, and the audience's position within a piece. Katherine's work does exactly this. 'Pity' plays with perception and draws people in, engages them and I really liked that.'

The exhibition is open for viewing until 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at The Nunnery Gallery.

**Address:** The Nunnery Gallery, 181 Bow Rd, London, E3 2SJ

Visit: [www.bowarts.org](http://www.bowarts.org) for more information.

**End.**

### Editors Notes:

The Nunnery Gallery opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10am-5pm

Please find contact information and details about Bow Arts below. If you require any high resolution images, further information or would like to arrange any interviews please get in touch.

### About Bow Arts:

**Bow Arts** was established as an educational arts charity in 1995 based in East London, where it supports a community of over 400 artists with affordable, secure, creative workspace in the heart of London's Artist Quarter. Bow Arts also manages one of the country's most exciting education programmes. The schools programme takes world-class artists into schools to improve the lives and learning of children and young people. Our projects, workshops and training are proven to raise attainment, deliver on school improvement priorities and provide top quality learning experiences. Bow Arts also runs the Nunnery, a contemporary art gallery a stone's throw from the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which supports a diverse range of local, national and international exhibitions and events.

Bow Arts works closely with a number of partners including East Thames, Poplar HARCA, Crisis, Tower Hamlets Council and Newham Council, and joined the National Portfolio of Arts Council England in April 2012.

### Contact Details/Press Enquiries:

Karen Le Roy Harris, Gallery Director

**Tel:** 020 8980 7774/ 07931 485 155 **Email:** [kleroyharris@bowarts.com](mailto:kleroyharris@bowarts.com)

**Web:** [www.bowarts.org](http://www.bowarts.org) | <http://www.twitter.com/bowarts> | [www.facebook.com/bowarts](http://www.facebook.com/bowarts)