

**PRESS RELEASE**

**JERWOOD  
DRAWING  
PRIZE**



BATH SCHOOL  
OF ART & DESIGN

JERWOOD CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION

**A new era for the UK's most prestigious prize for drawing**

Following 17 significant and successful years of support, Jerwood Charitable Foundation and Bath Spa University have announced that 2017 will be Jerwood Charitable Foundation's final year as the key partner and funder for the Jerwood Drawing Prize.

The Drawing Prize is the largest and longest-running annual open exhibition for drawing in the UK. Selected from original drawings, it has established a reputation for its commitment to championing excellence and for promoting and celebrating the breadth of contemporary drawing practice within the UK.

The Drawing Prize was first established in 1994 by Professor Anita Taylor, Dean of Bath School of Art and Design at Bath Spa University; originally as the Rexel Derwent Open Drawing Exhibition and later becoming known as the Cheltenham Open Drawing Exhibition until Jerwood Charitable Foundation became its principal sponsor in 2001.

Professor Taylor commented: "It has been an immense pleasure to work with Jerwood Charitable Foundation for so many years, during which time we have been able to considerably enhance the position of contemporary drawing in the UK with this sustained and significant financial support. It has been an exciting and inspiring journey for the Drawing Prize project and I am immensely proud that we have been able to support so many talented artists through this key partnership. I look forward to continuing to develop the project into the future with new partners and to celebrating the achievements to date through our final collaboration with Jerwood Charitable Foundation as we deliver Jerwood Drawing Prize 2017."

Since 2001, Jerwood Charitable Foundation has contributed £941,430 to the project, supporting almost 1,000 Jerwood Drawing Prize artists to date. Since 2002, it has also hosted the annual exhibition as part of its Jerwood Visual Arts programme. The national tour of the exhibition received visits of more than 43,000 last year.

Shonagh Manson, Director of Jerwood Charitable Foundation, said: "It has been an extraordinary privilege to have helped to cement the standing of such an important project as the Drawing Prize, and we look forward to following its fortunes through the next exciting chapter of its story. Jerwood Charitable Foundation supports early career artists and arts projects in the early stages of their development, and we remain committed to supporting drawing as a fundamental element of artistic practice within our Jerwood Visual Arts programme. We will explore new project ideas and collaborations for the future, and look forward to continuing our valued relationships with the exceptional community of artists who have been involved with the Drawing Prize."

The Drawing Prize exhibition project will continue to be led and developed by Professor Anita Taylor and Bath Spa University. The visual arts in the UK has benefitted enormously from the prestige of the Jerwood Drawing Prize. It has championed the careers of many emerging and established artists and this legacy will continue as the project moves forward into a new phase with new supporters.

Online registration for Jerwood Drawing Prize 2017 will open in March 2017 and registered works will be collected at a number of collection centres across the UK in June. The 2017 exhibition will launch at Jerwood Space, London in September.

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## Further information:

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## Notes to editors:

**The Jerwood Drawing Prize** project is led by founding Director, Professor Anita Taylor, Dean of Bath School of Art & Design at Bath Spa University. It is supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation, through its national programme supporting visual arts practice, Jerwood Visual Arts. The project was founded in 1994 as the Rexel Derwent Open Drawing Exhibition and was known from 1996 until 2000 as the Cheltenham Open Drawing Exhibition until the Jerwood Charitable Foundation became the principal benefactor in 2001. Previous supporters include Westland Nurseries, The Summerfield Charitable Trust, CHK Charities and the Rootstein Hopkins Foundation, with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary special exhibition *Drawing Breath* supported by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Henry Moore Foundation and HongKong Land. The project celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014 with the exhibition *Drawn Together* at Jerwood Gallery in Hastings. A publication celebrating the legacy of the annual drawing exhibition will be published by Wunderkammer Press in 2019/20 and will be informed by an evaluation process undertaken in 2017.

**Jerwood Drawing Prize** is part of **Jerwood Visual Arts**, a national programme supporting visual arts practice, through which Jerwood Charitable Foundation works with early career artists to commission and present new work. Artist opportunities run throughout the year alongside a programme of related exhibitions, events and commissioned writing taking place online, in London and across the UK.  
[www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)

**Jerwood Charitable Foundation** is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. For more information visit [www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org](http://www.jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org)

**Bath School of Art and Design** was founded in the 1850s and has a long and distinguished history of nurturing the talents of the artists and designers of the future. The School offers a range of opportunities for study through creative practice at all levels supported by specialist technical workshops, dedicated studio space and outstanding creative professionals at the forefront of their fields. A full list of art and design courses on offer at Bath Spa University is available at [www.bathspa.ac.uk](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk). **Bath Spa University** is where creative minds meet. Offering a wide range of courses across the arts, sciences, education, social science and business to 7,000 students, the University is a leading educational institution in creativity, culture and enterprise.

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