

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Iona Rowland
T: 01372 462 190
E: iona@parkerharris.co.uk

www.jerwoodvisualarts.org

JERWOOD DRAWING PRIZE

The Evelyn Williams Trust supports a new award in association with the Jerwood Drawing Prize 2017 exhibition

The organisers of the **Jerwood Drawing Prize** are delighted to announce an additional award in association with the 2017 open drawing exhibition. The new award supported by **The Evelyn Williams Trust - The Evelyn Williams Drawing Award** - will be offered in addition to the First Prize of £8,000, Second Prize of £5,000 and two Student Awards of £2,000 each of which are supported by **Jerwood Charitable Foundation**.

The Evelyn Williams Drawing Award, worth £10,000, will support an individual artist with a significant track record to develop and realise a body of new drawings for a solo exhibition. The award will result in an exhibition, to be developed over a minimum of a twelve-month period. The Evelyn Williams Drawing Award will assist an artist who will be selected from those included in the Jerwood Drawing Prize 2017 exhibition. Eligible artists will be invited to submit a proposal for this exciting new award, which will be reviewed by a selection committee including a Trustee of the Evelyn Williams Trust and the Director of Jerwood Drawing Prize in September 2017.

The Jerwood Drawing Prize is led by founding Director, Professor Anita Taylor, and supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation through its national programme Jerwood Visual Arts. Selected from original art works, the Jerwood Drawing Prize has established a reputation for its commitment to championing excellence and promoting and celebrating the breadth of contemporary drawing practice within the UK.

The Jerwood Drawing Prize is open to all artists who are based in the UK. Up to 70 drawings will be selected for the 2017 exhibition as part of the Jerwood Visual Arts programme at Jerwood Space, London, from 13 September – 22 October 2017, before touring nationally. The 2017 selectors are Dr David Dibosa, writer, researcher and Reader in Museology at the University of the Arts London, Helen Legg, Director of Spike Island and Michael Simpson, artist.

Online registration for artists entering the Jerwood Drawing Prize 2017 will close at 5pm on 28 June 2017. Once registered, artists can submit their works through one of the regional collection centres across the UK.

For further details and to register online please visit: jerwoodvisualarts.org

For all enquiries please contact project managers, Parker Harris:

Tel: 01372 462190 Email: jdp@parkerharris.co.uk Twitter/Instagram: #JDP17 @JerwoodJVA

- Ends -

Notes to editors

The **Jerwood Drawing Prize** project is led by founding Director, Professor Anita Taylor, Executive 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 1996-2000 as the Cheltenham Open Drawing Exhibition until the Jerwood Charitable Foundation became the principal benefactor in 2001. Previous supporters have included Westland Nurseries, The Summerfield Charitable Trust, CHK Charities and the Rootstein Hopkins Foundation.

The **Evelyn Williams Trust** was set up in 1991 when the artist Evelyn Williams was in her mid-sixties. Initially, the focus was on the discipline of drawing, particularly through the encouragement of young and emerging artists. "At that time there was, as far as I could see, no drawing going on in art schools," said Evelyn. "By drawing, I don't mean just drawing from the model, I mean making plans for what you're going to do. It's a process of thinking; it starts in your head and it comes out in your hands, in whatever medium you happen to be using. It is fundamental to all good art." She also said, "*I like the idea that any money that comes out of my Estate will help some other artist when I am no longer around.*" evelynwilliams.com/evelyn-williams-trust

Dr David Dibosa trained as a curator after receiving his first degree from Girton College, University of Cambridge. He was awarded his PhD in Art History from Goldsmiths College, University of London. During the 1990s, he curated public art projects. He is currently Course Leader for MA Curating and Collections at Chelsea College of Arts. He is also a Researcher in University of the Arts London's Research Centre for Transnational Art, Identity and Nation (TrAIN).

Helen Legg was previously Curator at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, where she worked for 5 years on exhibitions and offsite projects as well as the development of Ikon Eastside, a second gallery based in a former factory building in Digbeth. In 2010, she was appointed Director of Spike Island, an international centre for the development of contemporary art and design, based in Bristol. She sat on the selection panel for the Paul Hamlyn Artist's Awards in 2013 and latterly for the Turner Prize and the CAS Annual Award in 2014. She is Chair of Visual Arts South West and an advisor for the Bristol Cultural Development Partnership.

Michael Simpson studied at Bournemouth College of Art (1958-60) and Royal College of Art, London (1960-63). He now lives and works in Wiltshire, UK, making large scale paintings in ongoing series that repeat and rework a number of key elements. Rooted in a fascination with fifteenth century Venetian and early Flemish painting, and inflected by the formal restraint and reduced palette of Minimalism, Simpson has developed a distinctive, darkly comedic artistic vocabulary with which to create works that move beyond their subject matter to question the nature of painting itself. His forthcoming solo exhibition will open at Blain Southern, Berlin in September 2017.

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. jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org

Jerwood Visual Arts is 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

Bath School of Art & Design at Bath Spa University has a long and distinguished history of art and design higher education. The Bath School of Art was founded in 1854 and has been nurturing the talent of artists and designers since then. With a rich history and beautiful settings, the University is a leading educational institution for creativity, culture and enterprise. Professor Anita Taylor, Director of the Jerwood Drawing Prize project and Drawing Projects UK, became the Dean of Bath School of Art & Design in June 2013 where the Jerwood Drawing Prize project is now hosted. She is also an Adjunct Professor of the University of Sydney affiliated to Sydney College of the Arts. bathspa.ac.uk/art-and-design/