

Artist Charlie Schaffer first to win Botting Prize twice

- Painting is a 'by-product' of a 'specific and intense' encounter, says winner

21 February 2018 – A young artist who considers portrait painting 'a kind of therapy' for both him and his sitter has won this year's £5,000 Brian Botting Prize for an outstanding representation of the human form.

Head of Thandi, an oil painting by 25-year-old Margate-based Charlie Schaffer, impressed the judges, making Charlie the first artist to win the Botting Prize twice. He was also the prize winner in 2016, in addition to which he was awarded the competition's Young Artist Prize in 2014

Chair of the judges Daphne Todd OBE, leading painter and judge on BBC One's *The Big Painting Challenge*, praised the work. She said: "While stylistically owing a debt to Lucian Freud, Charlie has seen a great deal and observed the interplay between hot and cold colours beautifully. The emotion emanating from the subject is very arresting. The fact that her form is not completely resolved adds to the sense of a moment caught, a life and a process continuing."

Winning artist Charlie Schaffer, who studied art at Central St Martins and the University of Brighton, said: "Apart from the cash injection, which is really important, the main thing is the appreciation and gratification. It's great to know that the judges get what I was trying to get across. It's essential motivation just when I needed it."

Explaining his working process, Charlie said: "I get to hang out with another person in a specific and intense way. The painting is a by-product of the situation. It's not the total point. It's quite literally therapy, during which we become friends through the process of painting. I'm led by the relationship. I'm reacting to them and how much we share. If I'm open, they're open. There are very few spaces where you can do that these days. If you go to the pub, you get distracted."

"I'm half concentrating on the painting, half on the talking. Without talk, it's like a still life. People are interesting because they're people, not because of how they look."

Charlie's winning painting will be exhibited at the Mall Galleries from 5–17 March as part of the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize exhibition. The oil painting was completed over eight sittings, which Charlie says is exceptionally quick for him.

The Brian Botting Prize is one of four prizes that form the competition. The winner of the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize, worth £15,000, Second Prize and the Young Artist Prize each

worth £4,000 will be announced at the Mall Galleries on Monday 5 March. The People's Prize of £2,000 will be announced on 31 March.

83 artists have been shortlisted for the Prize out of 1,144 who entered this year's competition. In all 2,194 works of art were entered, which represents the highest level of entries in the Prize's 13-year history.

Now in its thirteenth year, the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize for creative representational art – art that seeks to capture the real world – offers total prize money of £30,000. The competition is open to any artist resident in the UK painting or drawing works of creative representational art and over 18-years-old.

Judges for the 2018 competition were:

- Daphne Todd OBE PPRP NEAC – chair of the judging panel, artist and judge on BBC1's The Big Painting Challenge
- Robin Mason – artist and Head of Fine Art, City & Guilds London Art School
- Johnny Messum – founder and director, Messums Wiltshire
- Prof Andrew Stahl – artist, Professor of Fine Art and Head of Undergraduate Painting at Slade School of Fine Art, UCL.
- Benjamin Sullivan NEAC RP – artist, winner of the BP Portrait Award 2017

Created in 2005 by The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers and The Lynn Foundation, the open competition continues to champion the skill of draughtsmanship painting. The exhibition aims to reflect the breadth of approaches and materials from across the artistic spectrum.

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Notes to editors

Two high resolution colour images are attached: one of Charlie Schaffer at work in the National Gallery and a second of his winning entry *Head of Thandi*.

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About the sponsors:

The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers

Formed in 1502 by the amalgamation of companies in existence before 1283, the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers is actively engaged in supporting the art and craft of painting. With a strong commitment to decorative and fine art, the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers is delighted to sponsor this annual prize in conjunction with the Lynn Foundation. www.painter-stainers.org

The Lynn Foundation

The Lynn Foundation is a charity devoted to children, the disabled, music and the arts. Its contribution is the prize money totalling £25,000 and an engraved gold medal for the winner of the first prize.

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Rigby & Rigby

Rigby & Rigby is one of London's leading developers of super-prime property in some of the world's most exclusive destinations. Responsible for creating exceptional residences and stunning commercial spaces, the name of Rigby & Rigby is synonymous with inspiring architecture and striking interiors. By blending the contemporary with the traditional, and using state-of-the-art technology, they push the boundaries of design to stunning effect.

Exceptional design standards and a commitment to the finest of handcrafted materials equips the firm with an understanding and appreciation for the quality of artistic work exhibited by the prestigious Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize. As a sponsor of the exhibition, Rigby & Rigby continues its dedication to nurturing emerging artistic talent and contributing to the world of British representational painting and drawing.

Helen Green Design

Helen Green Design is one of Britain's leading interior design practices, known for liveable yet luxurious interiors. A comprehensive design studio with an international portfolio, Helen Green Design's work ranges from listed townhouses in Belgravia and country homes in Sussex, to hotels and yachts in the Caribbean. With a reputation for creating elegant interiors for private clients and prestigious developments, the practice holds a wealth of experience in interior design, furniture and product development.

The studio was founded by the late Helen Green to embody her passion for creating and inspiring visionary design. As a proud sponsor of the renowned Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize, Helen Green Design continues her vision by helping to encourage and promote the finest of contemporary representational painting and draughtsmanship in Britain.