

A not-for-profit initiative of The Cynthia Corbett Gallery

THE CYNTHIA CORBETT GALLERY SPRING EXHIBITION | FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

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The Cynthia Corbett Gallery Spring Exhibition | *Focus on Photography*

20 April – 30 May 2015

The Cynthia Corbett Gallery

15 The Downs

London

SW20 8UA

A selection of work by artists from the Young Masters Art Prize 2009 – 14 will be presented at *The Cynthia Corbett Gallery Spring Exhibition: Focus on Photography*.

The Young Masters Art Prize is a unique, not-for-profit competition open to international and UK-based artists who combine skill and innovation with awareness of the Old Masters and art of the past. The Prize was founded in 2009 by respected gallerist, Cynthia Corbett, who sought to acknowledge and celebrate artistic skill and innovation in contemporary art.

The Cynthia Corbett Gallery Spring Exhibition: Focus on Photography exhibition will take place between the 20th of April and 30th of May 2015 and will show a variety of photography in a magnificent domestic setting. The work of artists featured in The Young Masters Art Prize 2009 – 14 will continue touring both in the UK and internationally throughout 2015 -16 (see [tour 2015](#)). The Tour will also feature accompanying work by invited and guest artists new for 2015.

Artists include: **Andrew Burgess | Elisabeth Caren | EVEWRIGHT | Fabiano Parisi | Gillian Hyland | Isabelle van Zeijl | Johann Ryno de Wet | Lluís Barba | Nick Simpson | Red Saunders | Richard Simmons | Saskia Boelsums | Stine Ljungdahl | Tom Leighton | Lottie Davies (overall winner of the Young Masters Art Prize 2012).**

Image: Isabelle van Zeijl, She, 2014, c-print mounted on dibond in tray frame, 110 x 100cm, Edition of 7

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About the Young Masters Art Prize:

In 2008 gallerist Cynthia Corbett had the idea of establishing the Young Masters Art Prize with the aim of celebrating artists who pay homage to the skill and traditions of the past; knowing that young artists today are not afraid, unlike their predecessors, to look back at art history and its lessons.

The inaugural edition of the Prize launched in 2009, sponsored by AXA UK, and was won by Héctor de Gregorio and American artist duo Ghost of a Dream. A series of touring exhibitions took place across London throughout 2010 and 2011, and Shortlisted Young Masters Art Prize 2009 artist, Lluís Barba, was also invited to exhibit at a special pop-up exhibition at the Courtauld Institute as part of *East Wing IV Exhibitionism: The Art of Display*.

The second edition of the Prize, Young Masters Art Prize 2012, was curated by Daisy McMullan in two parts at Sphinx Fine Art and Gallery 27 Cork Street. A judging panel chaired by Godfrey Barker awarded the Prize to photographer Lottie Davies, with four runner-up prizes going to Georgia Dodson, Wieland Payer, Brad Woodfin and Mia Brownell. The shortlisted artists were presented alongside three guest artists: Yinka Shonibare MBE, Ali Assaf and Lluís Barba. The show went on to tour across the UK throughout 2013 with venues including Cork Street, Henley Festival, major London art fairs, and finishing at Sphinx Fine Art Gallery in Notting Hill, London.

The Young Masters Art Prize operates as a not-for-profit initiative of the Cynthia Corbett Gallery, and is recognised as an exciting, high profile competition that is highly innovative in its concept – to recognise contemporary art that embraces its past.

About the judges for the Young Masters Art Prize 2014:

Godfrey Barker (Chair) is a well-renowned art historian and journalist. He has written for many of the leading newspapers including the *Evening Standard*, *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. He lectures for Sotheby's and Christie's and has recently completed *The Rich and the Price of Art* - a book that he is currently adapting for a TV series.

Dr Charles Saumarez Smith CBE is a British art historian. After graduating from King's College, Cambridge, he spent a year at Harvard University as a Henry Fellow studying at the Fogg Art Museum and then returned to the Warburg Institute as a postgraduate student. In 1979, he was elected Christie's Research Fellow at Christ's College, Cambridge and, in 1982, he joined the staff of the Victoria and Albert Museum as an Assistant Keeper with special responsibility for V&A/RCA MA in the History of Design. In 1990 he was appointed Head of Research at the Victoria and Albert Museum. In 1994 he was appointed Director of the National Portrait Gallery and, in 2002, Director of the National Gallery. He took up his appointment as Secretary and Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Arts in September 2007 and was awarded a CBE in 2008.

Roy Bolton is a respected art historian and fine-art dealer who has earned popular recognition from his participation in the BBC 2 series, *Show Me the Monet*. Roy honed his expertise as Head of Department for Old Master & British Pictures at Christie's, before establishing his own gallery, Sphinx Fine Art, in Kensington, which specialises in Old Master Paintings and Russian Art.

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Werner Grub is a London based German collector who has been collecting art for more than 20 years. Werner's substantial collection has an international focus but he always comes back to emerging artists who are based in London. Werner is a founding partner at the independent merchant bank Richmond Park Partners LLP.

Ben Austin is the Founder and Director of the curatorial art PR company Fluff PR. He is a regular contributor for Artlyst, where he covers exhibitions and the international art fairs. He studied History of Art at university, grew up in the art world, and cut his teeth at the Catto Gallery in Hampstead. He went on to run its sister gallery, Catto Contemporary in Shoreditch where he was responsible for launching the careers of many artists, showing Anthony Micallef and Banksy in a curated exhibition entitled 'Perverse Pop' back in 2001.

Daisy McMullan is an independent curator and the Associate Director of the Young Masters Art Prize 2014. Working across a wide variety of projects, her practice includes curating exhibitions, writing, programming and research. With a background in fine art, she completed an MA in Curating at Chelsea College of Art & Design 2011/12. Following the MA, she received the Ashley Family Foundation Research Fellowship at CHELSEA space, Chelsea College of Art & Design for 2012/13. She was then awarded the Chelsea Arts Club Trust Research Fellowship for 2013/14. Daisy has curated numerous exhibitions including the Young Masters Art Prize 2012 in two parts and the Young Masters Tour 2013. Daisy is the co-curator of a contemporary textiles project *The Geometrics* with Dr Emma Neuberg of the Slow Textiles Group. Her current research specialises in curating contemporary textiles.

About the judges for the Young Masters Maylis Grand Ceramics Prize 2014:

Daniella Wells joined the Crafts Council in 2002 to launch the inaugural COLLECT at the V&A. In 2009 she was integral to the re-launch and growth of COLLECT into the Saatchi Gallery as well as overseeing the production of Origin at Somerset House in 2008 and 2009. For COLLECT's 11th edition earlier this year, Daniella took the role of Show Director. After studying Ceramics at Central Saint Martins Daniella worked briefly at Tussaud's Studios (Merlin Group) before joining Janice Blackburn at Sotheby's producing selling exhibitions of contemporary decorative arts in New York and London from 1998- 2002.

Preston Fitzgerald has been collecting contemporary ceramics for over twenty years starting in New York City and now based in London. He has curated contemporary craft and design exhibitions including working with The Royal College of Art, The Flow Gallery, London and Terra Delft Gallery, Holland. After post-graduate degrees at Christie's Education and Sotheby's Institute of Art Preston worked with Janice Blackburn at Sotheby's contemporary decorative arts selling exhibitions. He recently spoke at The National Centre for Craft and Design study day, 'The Studio Potter' regarding collecting contemporary ceramics.

Maylis Grand is an avid collector of ceramic art. Originally from France, Maylis moved to London aged 20 to study Economics and Business at the LSE. She quickly developed a strong interest in the cosmetic industry and got her first job at Christian Dior in London. Her passion for ceramics stemmed from her first purchase of a red glazed 1900 Vase de Sevres. After meeting her husband James Grand, together they mixed and matched their respective tastes for ceramics; Islamic art, Art Deco & Art Nouveau, Arts & Crafts and Studio Pottery. James & Maylis' collection now lives amongst their four children with the exception of Maylis' most prized possession: a turn of the century barbotine with exquisite 3D pink magnolia flowers. Maylis' current position as Head of Private Label for a major French perfumery chain allows her to manage her taste in other's creativity. The prize is the gift of her husband.