

JERWOOD **SCULPTURE** PRIZE

The Jerwood Charitable Foundation is delighted to announce

MICHAEL VISOCCHI

Winner of the JERWOOD SCULPTURE PRIZE 2009



Michael Visocchi's proposal for *Yield* has been awarded the 2009 Jerwood Sculpture Prize's winning commission of £25,000. *Yield* will be produced as a large-scale, permanent sculpture to be unveiled at the Jerwood Sculpture Park, in the grounds of Ragley Hall, Warwickshire in spring 2010.

For his proposal, Visocchi has taken scaled down models of electricity pylons found near Ragley and placed one on top of the other. Constructed in galvanized mild steel, the sculpture will stand as a contemporary monument to modern day technology and, at 18m in height, will be an impressive presence in the landscape. In choosing to take the form of the pylon as his Jerwood sculpture, Visocchi makes us think again, not only about the design of these structures, which so often we do not even notice in the landscape, but about the 21st-century issues of climate change, carbon footprints and renewable energy.

Visocchi: 'The search to produce and transmit more and more energy is now acknowledged to be directly proportional to negative impacts on global climate. The paradox is, however, that pylons are a necessity for a successful and vital link in servicing communities around the country as we continue to consume more energy to satisfy increasingly complex lifestyles.'

This prestigious prize is presented by the Jerwood Charitable Foundation, as part of their dedication to supporting and nurturing talented artists. Now in its fifth year, the prize has built a strong reputation for quality and innovation. This year, from the 120 applications initially received, 8 artists were short listed and each commissioned to research and write a detailed schedule to create a representative maquette of their planned sculpture. As well as receiving £1000 to help with the cost, each artist is also offered advice, guidance and support whilst developing their proposal. The exceptional 2009 shortlist was truly representative of the diversity of thinking in contemporary

sculpture, with each of the sculptors approaching the task in a very different way, employing a wide range of materials and techniques.

Maquettes of the eight short listed proposals will be on exhibition in the Jerwood Space, Union Street, London SE1, until 9 April 2009, open 10am – 5pm weekdays and 10am – 3pm weekends.

www.jerwoodvisualarts.org

For more information, please contact Sarah Crocker, Press Officer, Parker Harris on 01372 462190, or sarah@parkerharris.co.uk.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Jerwood Charitable Foundation is dedicated to imaginative and responsible funding in all areas of human endeavour and excellence, with particular emphasis on the arts. The Charitable Foundation takes a direct, sympathetic and intelligent approach to all its projects, and its initiatives reflect a mark of quality, excellence and credibility. (For more information please visit www.jerwood.org)

Jerwood Sculpture at Ragley the creation of a collection of 20th and 21st Century sculpture is a major initiative of the Jerwood Foundation and an important part of its wide-ranging support of the visual arts. From its beginning in 1999, the aim of Jerwood Sculpture Park has been to display large sculptures in the natural environment. Since 2004, the collection has been sited in the magnificent grounds of Ragley Hall, home of the Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford.

Jerwood Visual Arts Series was launched at the Frieze Art Fair in 2006, and is an umbrella structure that celebrates and supports the Jerwood Charitable Foundation's key annual visual arts awards and prizes: the Jerwood Drawing Prize, Jerwood Sculpture Prize, Jerwood Contemporary Makers, Jerwood Contemporary Painters and Jerwood Photography Awards. Supplementing this array of annual awards and prizes, additional one off exhibitions and initiatives, have also been supported by the Jerwood Charitable Foundation. All of these exhibitions are held at the Jerwood Space in London, SE1.

The Jerwood Sculpture Prize 2008 Judges:

Phylida Barlow is a practising artist and Professor of Sculpture at the Slade School of Fine Art. Recent commissions have been *stack and fence*, for the South Bank Centre London.

Charles Darwent is art critic of the Independent on Sunday and writes for a number of art journals. He is co-author of *The Drawing Book*, published by Black Dog Publishing.

Nigel Hall (chair of the judging panel) is a practicing sculptor and draughtsman. Elected as Royal Academician in 2003. Currently has a retrospective, *Sculpture and Drawing* 1965-2008 at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Anna Moszynska pioneered the study of contemporary art at Sotheby's Institute where she is now a Consultant Lecturer. She has written widely on contemporary art and artists and broadcasts on the subject for BBC Radio. Her publications include books on Abstract Art and Antony Gormley and most recently an essay on Langlands and Bell.

Camilla Trefgarne is curator of Jerwood Sculpture at Ragley and the Jerwood Art Collection. Having specialized in 20th Century British Art at Christie's, Camilla worked with a private art dealer before joining the Jerwood Foundation.

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