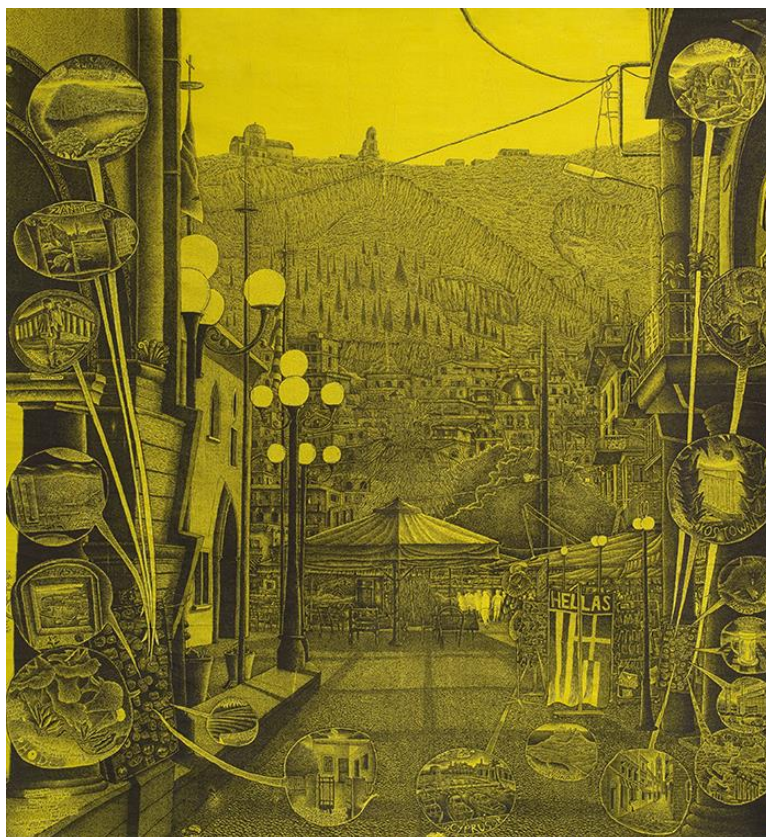


## PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Iona Rowland  
 T: 01372 462 190  
 E: [iona@parkerharris.co.uk](mailto:iona@parkerharris.co.uk)

[www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)



Gary Lawrence, *Yellow Kalymnos and Fridge Magnets*, 250 x 249cm (2017).  
 Photograph: Colin Mills

## Jerwood Drawing Prize 2017 Prize Winners Announced

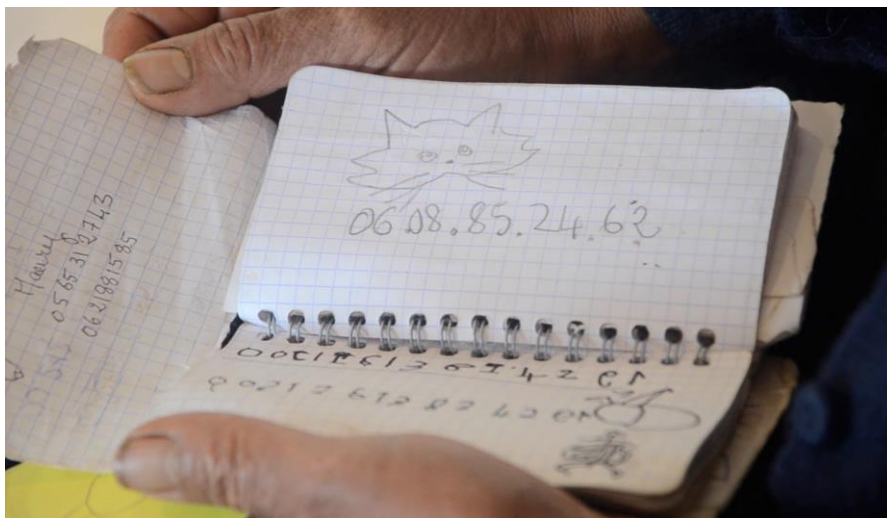
Gary Lawrence wins the £8,000 First Prize for his drawing *Yellow Kalymnos and Fridge Magnets*, the Second Prize of £5,000 goes to Ana Mendes for her video work *On Drawing*, and two Student Awards of £2,000 each are awarded to Jade Montserrat and Dejan Mrdja respectively. Barbara Walker is the recipient of the newly introduced Evelyn Williams Drawing Award, worth £10,000.

**Jerwood Drawing Prize** 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 prestigious **First Prize of £8,000** has been awarded to **Gary Lawrence** for his monumental drawing *Yellow Kalymnos and Fridge Magnets*; this is first time an artist has won twice in the history of the award [1]. Gary Lawrence's intricate depiction of Greek Island Kalymnos, which has been produced in felt pen and poster paint, is a celebration of draughtsmanship and observational skill. The complex composition provides a snap shot of popular tourist spot Kalymnos Square, honing in on the myriad of magnets for sale at the side of the road, each accompanied by an ironic comment from the artist - 'Athens - never been here', 'Cyprus '08 ok-ish', 'Zante Town - Euro Spar'. Taking almost a year to complete, the drawing is a labyrinth of personal narratives, executed with technical precision using readily available craft materials.

[1] Gary Lawrence won First Prize in 2011 for his drawing *Homage to Anonymous*.

Professor Anita Taylor, founding Director of the Jerwood Drawing Prize recalled the moment the drawing was unfurled for the selection panel to view: “it was *immediately striking, with its intense colour and construction - it was compelling.*” Artist and selector Michael Simpson said Gary Lawrence’s drawing was “a brilliant evocation of a time capsule; of time squashed in on itself as a topographical romance in retrospect.” Dr David Dibosa, also on the 2017 panel, felt the piece “radiated power”.



Ana Mendes, *On Drawing* (video still), 2016.

**Ana Mendes** is the recipient of the **£5,000 second prize** for her video work *On Drawing* – an emotive interview with Mina Pegourie, a housemaid the artist met during a residency in France. Moroccan born Pegourie discusses how she’s used drawing to navigate her way through life, given that she cannot read or write. She says “when someone gives me their phone number, I draw something to remind me.” The film encourages viewers to consider the relationship between thinking and drawing and the utilisation of drawing as a tool for everyday life.

**Two Student Awards of £2,000** each are awarded to **Jade Montserrat**, for documentary photograph *No Clothes Needed*; and **Dejan Mrdja**, for his dynamic video work *Chasing Synchrony 2.0*.



Jade Montserrat, *No Need For Clothing*, 2017, documentary photograph, Jacquetta Clark.

Photograph: Colin Mills



**Jade Montserrat**'s practice lies in the intersection between art and activism, manifested through performance, film, installation, sculpture, print and text. The artist interrogates these mediums with the aim of exposing gaps in our visual and linguistic habits. Her prizewinning piece speaks of entanglement and commodity fetishism; a polemic engaged in combat between histories of colonialism and today's realities.



Dejan Mrdja, *Chasing Synchrony 2.0*, 2017. Courtesy of the artist.

In **Dejan Mrdja's** *Chasing Synchrony 2.0*, the artist creates a link between drawing, installation and performance. Rather than focusing on an end product or outcome, Mrdja celebrates the process of drawing - it becomes a shared activity, uniting both performers and viewers through an immersive experience.

The prizewinning pieces are amongst 69 works by 65 artists which have been selected for the 2017 exhibition by **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.



Barbara Walker, *Exotic Detail in the Margin #2*, 2017. Photograph: Colin Mills

The recipient of the newly introduced **Evelyn Williams Drawing Award** is **Barbara Walker**, whose figurative drawings explore race identity, belonging, class and power. The new award, which is worth £10,000, will support the artist to realise a body of new drawings, culminating in a solo exhibition at **Jerwood Gallery, Hastings** in 2018. Eligible artists selected for the 2017 exhibition were invited to apply for the Award. The final selection was made by **Elizabeth Gilmore**, Director, Jerwood Gallery, Hastings; **Anita Taylor**, founding Director, Jerwood Drawing Prize, and **Nicholas Usherwood**, Art Critic and Curator and trustee of the Evelyn Williams Trust.

The Jerwood Drawing Prize exhibition will be on display at **Jerwood Space, London** from 13 September – 22 October 2017, followed by a national tour to **East Gallery, Norwich University of the Arts** (14 November 2017 – 6 January 2018), **The Edge, University of Bath** (10 February – 31 March 2018), **Sidney Cooper Gallery, Canterbury** (11 April – 6 May 2018), **Vane Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne** (26 May – 28 July 2018) and **Drawing Projects UK** (17 August – 6 October 2018).

Jerwood Drawing Prize is the largest and longest running annual open exhibition for drawing in the UK. Supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation through its programme of awards, exhibitions and events, Jerwood Visual Arts, Jerwood Drawing Prize is a unique initiative led by founding Director, Professor Anita Taylor (Executive Dean of Bath School of Art & Design at Bath Spa University). The Prize is committed to championing excellence, and to promoting and celebrating the breadth of contemporary drawing practice, this year including hand drawn, digital and three-dimensional works. In offering emerging, mid-career and established artists a national platform to exhibit their work, the exhibition has established a reputation for developing new insights into the role and value of drawing in creative practice today.

### Exhibition Information

Title:	Jerwood Drawing Prize 2017
Dates:	13 September–22 October 2017
Address:	Jerwood Space, 171 Union Street, London SE1 0LN
Opening Times:	Mon–Fri from 10am–5pm, Sat & Sun from 10am–3pm
Admission:	Free
Nearest Tube:	Southwark, London Bridge or Borough
Website:	<a href="http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org">www.jerwoodvisualarts.org</a>
Twitter:	#JDP17 @JerwoodJVA @artdesignbsu

Jerwood Visual Arts will host a series of evening events to accompany the exhibition. Events are free but must be booked in advance; for more information please visit [www.jerwoodvisualarts.org](http://www.jerwoodvisualarts.org)

- 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 and supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation. 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.

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 project will continue to be led and developed by Professor Anita Taylor supported by Bath Spa University. The visual arts in the UK has benefited enormously from the prestige of the Jerwood Drawing Prize, which 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.

*“We now look forward to a new future for the open drawing exhibition project and to establishing new partnerships that will reflect and develop the values that the project has come to epitomise. This year, we are pleased to welcome The Evelyn Williams Trust who will provide a biennial award of £10,000 to support an artist with an already established exhibiting career to develop a solo exhibition to be held at the Jerwood Gallery in Hastings. We are delighted to announce this on-going partnership with Jerwood Gallery for this new award.”* Professor Anita Taylor, founding Director, Jerwood Drawing Prize

Since its inauguration in 1994, the Jerwood Drawing Prize exhibition has showcased work by emerging, mid-career and established artists including Charles Avery, Sian Bowen, Gordon Cheung, Eileen Cooper RA, Graham Crowley, Adam Dant, Ian Davenport, Paul Emsley, Mark Francis, Neville Gabie, Tricia Gillman, Jane Harris, Melanie Jackson, Annie Kevans, Ansel Krut, Tom Phillips RA, Rebecca Salter RA, Soheila Sokhanvari, Michael Simpson, Emma Talbot, Virginia Verran and Rose Wylie RA.

**Jerwood Drawing Prize** is a joint initiative, led by Professor Anita Taylor, Executive Dean of Bath School of Art & Design at Bath Spa University, and supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation through Jerwood Visual Arts. The Evelyn Williams Drawing Award is funded by the Evelyn Williams Trust working in association with the Jerwood Drawing Prize, with this year's award winner's solo exhibition hosted in 2018 by the Jerwood Gallery in Hastings.

**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](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 & Design at Bath Spa University** has a long and distinguished history. The Bath School of Art was founded in 1852 and has sustained and nurtured the talent and careers of numerous artists and designers since. With its rich history and beautiful settings, Bath Spa University is a leading educational institution in creativity, culture and enterprise. Professor Anita Taylor, Director of the Jerwood Drawing Prize project, became the Dean of Bath School of Art & Design in June 2013. She is also an artist, creator of Drawing Projects UK. [www.bathspa.ac.uk/art-and-design](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/art-and-design)

The **Evelyn Williams Trust** was founded in 1991 and its primary objective is to promote the Arts. The Trust was modestly endowed by Evelyn Williams and her husband and has received support from individuals. Since its inception, it has financed year-long Fellowships in art schools to enable artist residences and later, in conjunction with Wimbledon Art School, to pay fees for Drawing MAs. [www.evelynwilliams.com](http://www.evelynwilliams.com)

**Jerwood Gallery** was built by the Jerwood Foundation to be a permanent home for the Jerwood Collection, showcased alongside a changing exhibition programme of modern and contemporary British art. As a major contributor to the regeneration of Hastings, the gallery opened to the public on 17 March 2012 as a not for profit organisation, but became a charity in February 2017. The gallery (which has paid entry) welcomes 50,000 visitors each year, runs a variety of community engagement programmes and has a successful and oversubscribed volunteer scheme for sixty people. Designed by the architectural practice HAT Projects, Jerwood Gallery was awarded a Sussex Heritage Trust Public and Community Award and a Civic Trust Award in 2012 and in 2013 was awarded a National RIBA Award and reached the mid-list for the Stirling Prize for the Building of the Year. In 2014, it was awarded the RICS SE Regional Award for Regeneration. [www.jerwoodgallery.org](http://www.jerwoodgallery.org)

## Selector biographies

**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.