

PRESS RELEASE

Whitstable Biennale 2014 announces winners of major award

WINNERS

Whitstable Biennale is pleased to announce that the winners of its 2014 Open Submission Award are **Louisa Martin** and **Rachel Reupke**

What the award means

The recipients of the cash prize win the opportunity to create a new work for Whitstable Biennale 2014 providing them with huge audiences. As well as funding for the work the artist receives developmental support from Biennale curators. . . but really this is only the beginning. . . .

Artists who have exhibited at Whitstable Biennale often go on to be hugely successful. Showing at the festival is now seen as a career stepping stone. This is perhaps why applications are received not just from around the UK but globally. **Whitstable Biennale Assistant Curator, Kate Phillimore** says: "I love the fact that both the 2014 Open Submission Winners will be using the opportunity to experiment with new ways of making work and pushing boundaries. Rachel Reupke is a filmmaker but will be presenting live performance work for the first time in her career and Louisa Martin will be breaking new ground by collaborating with a dancer, set designer, and DOP to create a dynamic, multi-layered 5 part film."

Global catchment area

There were a massive two hundred and thirty two entries for this award. This is a very big number, given the amount of work involved in the application process and it also confirms and demonstrates a high level of interest in Whitstable Biennale amongst contemporary artists. It adds huge support to the idea that artists see the Biennale as something that will greatly benefit their careers. Whitstable Biennale regularly receives approaches from all over the world, **Japan, India and the USA, this time there was an increase in entries from mainland Europe including Austria, Germany, Spain, and Poland.**



Image: Rachel Reupke, film still from Wine and Spirits (2013)

Rachel Reupke often works with film. The use of a static camera combined with precise art direction that employs the language of advertising make her films highly distinctive. The new 2014 Whitstable Biennale commission will be the first time Reupke has presented live performance to an audience.



Image: Video still from 'Of Course', 2013, by Louisa Martin

Louisa Martin's Whitstable Biennale commission will investigate the 'performance of identity' and look at ideas around intimate but non-physical human contact exploring the wider ramifications of living through digital images that are used to both construct and conceal identity.

Where stars are born

The Whitstable Biennale's track record indicates that the artists it selects (often very early in their careers) are 'stars in the making'. One only need glance at the Whitstable Biennale's back catalogue to recognise that this is real and demonstrable.

Whitstable Biennale is an organisation that commissions new work from young artists or artists who are at an early stage in their career and it also has a great reputation for being very supportive of those artists.

Seeing the future

This ability to 'read the future' to predict a trend and to pick up on future ideas is no fluke. Before moving to the Kent coast, **Sue Jones** was previously curator and then director of London's [Chisenhale Gallery](#) (1995-2000) where she worked with a series of young artists including [Gillian Wearing](#), [Hilary Lloyd](#), [Tomoko Takahashi](#) and [Tim Noble & Sue Webster](#).

Whitstable Biennale, Director, Sue Jones says:

"The Whitstable Biennale enjoys spotting potential and developing raw talent. Like everyone else I'm attracted to new and thought-provoking ideas, artists probably more than any other group of people have the most outrageously exciting ideas and it is a real privilege to be able to realise some of them. I enjoy working with the relatively unknown, I encourage artists to take risks. It is, therefore, immensely satisfying to see so many of them now doing so well. I'm very much looking forward to working with Louisa Martin and Rachel Reupke over the coming months."

Feeding the market

Catherine Herbert, Whitstable Biennale, Head of Strategy says: "We are increasingly seeing more and more gallery owners, collectors and curators at the festival. Artists have told me they are being approached and made offers either during or just after the Biennale. It is gratifying to think that each new commission has a very real life ahead of it. Some of the works born out of the Biennale are being shown all over the world."

It is perhaps why the Biennale enjoys a very good reputation amongst artists themselves, it is the 'place to be seen' and a great platform for new work.

Emma Leach, Whitstable Biennale, Performance Curator, perhaps encapsulates the spirit of the festival when she says: "At Whitstable Biennale you might see a work of art at its rawest. A work that is in the process of turning from chrysalis into butterfly. To witness this transformative creative process, the very beginnings of a work of art, will give you real insight into the nature of creation."

The Whitstable Biennale effect

After showing at Whitstable Biennale, artists have been nominated for awards including: **Art Angel Open commissions, The Jarman Award, Leverhulme Awards, South Bank Sky Arts Award, Cannes Film Festival awards, New York Film Festival awards.**

Works commissioned by Whitstable Biennale have gone on to be shown at venues including **Whitechapel Gallery, London; Serpentine Gallery, London; Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York; Imperial War Museum North; PKM, Seoul, Korea; Manifesta 9, Genk, Belgium; Modern Art Oxford; South London Gallery; British Film Institute; Bucharest Biennale, Romania; Art Unlimited, Basel; New Art Gallery, Walsall; Heidelberg Kunstverein, Germany; BAWAG Contemporary, Vienna, Austria, CCA Derry.**

A number of artists we have previously commissioned, and artists we are working with in 2014, are currently included in **Tate Britain's prestigious survey show, Assembly: a survey of recent artists' film and video in Britain 2008-2013, including Margaret Salmon, Mikhail Karikis, Clio Barnard, Rachel Reupke, Karen Mirza, Neil Henderson, Adam Chodzko, Cara Tolmie and Jananne Al-Ani.**

Recent awards won by Whitstable Biennale artists

Clio Barnard went on to be awarded a commission through Art Angel's Open directly after showing at the Biennale. She has subsequently won a number of major film awards, including **Best New Documentary Filmmaker at the Tribeca Film Festival New York, Best Film at the Stockholm Film Festival, and a Best European Film Award in the Director's Fortnight at this year's Cannes Film Festival.**

Clio Barnard and Katie Paterson are nominees in the forthcoming **South Bank Sky Awards.** Directly following her 2010 Whitstable Biennale commission Katie Paterson won a **Leverhulme Award.**

Following their Whitstable Biennale commissions, at the **2012 Jarman Awards, Benedict Drew was shortlisted, and Karen Mirza (together with Brad Butler) was awarded a Channel 4 Random Acts award commission.**

At the 2013 Jarman Awards, Emma Hart was awarded a Channel 4 Random Acts award commission.

Katrina Palmer has been commissioned to make a new performance work for Whitstable Biennale 2014. **She has subsequently been selected as one of two winners of Artangel's Open 2013.**

Martin John Callanan, who made a new work for Whitstable Biennale 2012, has subsequently won a Philip Leverhulme Award.

LEGACY

Clio Barnard: Plotlands, 2008

Quote:

"Making Plotlands involved complicated discussions and negotiations engaging directly with concerns raised by the work about the politics of landscape. The work 'stirred up a hornets nest', as one Plotland bird watcher put it. Sue was incredibly skilled at negotiating this tricky territory, brilliant at finding solutions without compromising the work. Plotlands developed my practice in directions I had not anticipated because of this very direct engagement. Sue is a curator willing to take risks and with a rare ability to bring difficult and challenging works to a broad audience." (Clio Barnard 2008)

Clio Barnard has gone on to make *The Arbor*, a film commissioned by Artangel, and *The Selfish Giant*. Both have won awards, *The Selfish Giant* has received glowing 5 star reviews across the board, and has won numerous awards, including Best European film at Cannes. She is currently shortlisted for the South Bank Sky Awards.

Katie Paterson: Every Night About This Time, 2010

Elements from Katie Paterson's suite of 13 new works that appeared and disappeared throughout Whitstable Biennale 2010, including *Streetlight Storm*, have gone on to be shown at venues including Es Baluard Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art, Palma de Mallorca, Spain; Haunch of Venison, London; PKM, Seoul, Korea; James Cohan Gallery, New York; BAWAG Contemporary, Vienna, Austria. She is currently shortlisted for the South Bank Sky Awards.

Quote:

"*Streetlight Storm*, created in partnership with the Whitstable Biennale, was my most ambitious artwork to date. It would not have been possible to realise without the crucial support, experience and enthusiasm of Sue Jones and the Whitstable Biennale. Sue's ambitious spirit throughout the project, her creative and intellectual support, dedication, and skills at overcoming many challenging situations allowed *Streetlight Storm* to become a very successful project.

The Whitstable Biennale commission gave me the opportunity to experiment with a new model of working, and to create a large-scale and ambitious series of new work (one of which included working with experts at the London Centre of Nanotechnology, and journeying to the Sahara desert). All the *Dead Stars* extended my relationship with Astrophysics Dept UCL, which contributed towards my receiving a Leverhulme Award." (Katie Paterson 2010)

Martin John Callanan: Wars During My Lifetime, 2012

Wars During My Lifetime has gone on to be shown at The Imperial War Museum North. Callanan has gone on to have a series of successful international solo and group exhibitions, including Whitechapel Gallery, London; noshowspace, London; White Cube Masons Yard, London; Or Gallery, Berlin; Horrach Moya Gallery, Spain.

He has recently been awarded a prestigious Philip Leverhulme Award, awarded for rising stars "whose work has already had a significant international impact, and whose future research career is exceptionally promising."

Benedict Drew: Now, Thing, 2012

Drew has subsequently been shortlisted for the Jarman Awards 2013. He is now represented by Matts Gallery, London.

Oreet Ashery: The Saints of Whitstable, 2008

Ashery has gone on to be commissioned by Artangel to make 'Party for Freedom'.

Lee Campbell: Fall and Rise, 2008

Rise and Fall was a new work by Campbell, which adapted and re-presented the opening credits of The Rise and Fall of Reginald Perrin as a live work in Whitstable, presaging the financial crash which happened the same year. Rise and Fall was a really important work for Campbell, providing a catalyst for research and his PhD, and informing all his subsequent works.

Campbell has subsequently presented Rise and Fall all over the world, including whilst being a resident artist at the prestigious Banff Centre in Canada.

Jesse Jones: The Selfish Act of Community, 2012

The film of the work which had been shown live at Whitstable Biennale 2012, went on to be shown at Serpentine Cinema, London; Artsonje Centre, Seoul, South Korea; CCA, Derry.

Emma Hart: Emma Hart Projects the Future, 2010, and Monument to the Unsaved, 2012

Emma Hart Projects the Future went on to be shown at Modern Art Oxford. Monument to the Unsaved went on to be shown at Art Exchange Gallery in the University of Essex.

Emma Hart was shortlisted for the prestigious Jarman Award 2013, and went on to win a Channel 4 Random Acts commission. Monument to the Unsaved was also on tour widely through the UK as part of the Jarman award tour.

Mikhail Karikis: Xenon: An Exploded Opera, 2010

Elements from An Exploded Opera have gone on to be shown widely, including in one of the world's most important international survey shows, Manifesta 9, in Genk, Belgium. Sounds from Beneath went on tour as part of the BBC Opera Season UK tour in 2011, and will shortly be included in Assembly at Tate Britain – a survey of the most important film and video works made by British artists over the last 20 years.

Karikis has gone on to make two further works in the same series, including SeaWomen, which has been shown extensively, internationally. A fourth film is currently in development.

Simon Faithfull: LOST, 2006

LOST went on to be shown in Germany, and Faithfull has gone on to show widely.

Quote:

"The Whitstable Biennale challenged me to make a work that stepped outside of my habitual artist's practice. The work was a new form created to deal with the specific context of the Whitstable Biennial but also explored a more personal and intimate side of my artistic persona. As such LOST can be seen to have been a turning point in my career opening up a new area of art making practice for me - one that has led to many new opportunities". (Simon Faithfull 2006)

Previous Whitstable Biennale Artists 2006-2012 include:

Faisal Abdu'Allah • Vitto Acconci • Jo Addison • Jananne Al-Ani • Suzanne Andrade • Oreet Ashery • Edwina Ashton • Tanya Axford • Clio Barnard • Ruth Beale • Oliver Beer • Bernd Behr • Anat Ben-David • Emma Bennett • Anna Best • Rebecca Bligh • Angus H Braithwaite • Mel Brimfield • Tim Bromage • Mark Butcher • Gerhard Byrne • Martin John Callanan • Daren Callow • Lee Campbell • Mircea Cantor • Mike Chavez-Dawson • Lottie Child • Adam Chodzko • Paul Clark • Declan Clarke • Leigh Clarke • Lucienne Cole • Ali Cook • Chloe Cooper • Augusto Corrieri • Phil Coy • Nick Crowe • John Cussans • Tom Dale • Shezad Dawood • Robin Deacon • Judith Dean • Maya Deren • Benedict Drew • Uddin & Elsey • Simon Faithfull • Harun Farocki • Peter Fillingham • Hope Fitzgerald • Tony Novak Foster • Luke Fowler • Helen Frik • Ryan Gander • Tom Gidley • Ian Giles •

Lucy Gunning • Beatty Hallas • Emma Hart • Sam Hasler • John Hegley • Roz Hilton • Peter Hofer • Abigail Hunt • William Hunt • Internet (Siân Robinson Davies & Diego Chamy) • Derek Jarman • Joan Jonas • Jesse Jones • Estelle Jourd • Ben Judd • Mikhail Karikis • Nina Katchadourian • Simon Kennedy • Joachim Koester • Serena Korda • Richard Layzell • Mark Lewis • Anna Lucas • Tessa Lynch • Stacy Makishi • Andy Malone • Gordon Matta-Clark • Jeremy Millar • Karen Mirza • Gareth Moore • Jenny Moore • Frog Morris • Charlotte Moth • Victor Mount • Simon Munnery • Rosalind Nashashibi • Bruce Nauman • Grace Ndiritu • Kim Noble • Sally O'Reilly • Harold Offeh • Mie Olise • Daniel Oliver • Unnar Örn • Rachel Pantechnicon • Katie Paterson • Oliver Payne • Alex Pearl • Nathan Penlington • Performance Klub Fiskulturnik • Falke Pisano • Olivia Plender • Possibility Archive • Mark Quinn • Kieren Reed • Nick Relph • Cullinan & Richards • Katy Richardson • Siân Robinson Davies • Matt Rudkin • Anri Sala • Ian Saville • Alex Schady • Zineb Sedira • Roman Signer • Harminder Singh Judge • Bob & Roberta Smith • John Smith • Raine Smith • Tim Spooner • Marty St James • Patrick Staff • Gary Stevens • Annika Ström • Magdalena Suranyi • Cara Tolmie • James Topple • Touch • Sarah Turner • Charlie Tweed • Natasha Vicars • Roy Villevoye • Zoë Walker & Neil Bromwich • Tim Wells • Aaron Williamson • Erin Wurm • Chris Yates & Kelvin Pawsey • Charlotte Young

Whitstable Biennale Talks 2006-2012 include:

Artist and writer Jeremy Millar • artist Laura Wilson • Mike Harding, BJ Nilsen & Jon Wozencroft from Touch music • choreographer Siobhan Davies • artist Marcus Coates • artist Shezad Dawood • Professor Paul Allain • producer John Wyver • writer Sally O'Reilly • artists Ruth Beale and Karen Mirza • William Fowler, BFI • artist Bernd Behr • artist Tom Dale • writer Brian Dillon • curator Richard Birkett • social historian Ian Boal

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Whitstable Biennale 31 May to 15 June 2014

Notes for Editors:

Rachel Reupke Biog:

Rachel Reupke's recent exhibitions include 'Images Rendered Bare. Vacant. Recognizable', Stadium, New York, USA, 2012, 'Transformed Land', Foundation Calouste Gulbenkian, Paris, France, 2011, 'Video, an Art, a History: 1965–2010', Singapore Art Museum, Singapore, 2011 and '10 Seconds or Greater', Picture This, Bristol, UK, 2010. Recent screenings include 'Getting In', South London Gallery, London, 2013, 'Flatness: Cinema after the Internet', Oberhausen Film Festival, 2013, 'Alma Mater', Whitechapel Gallery, London, 2011 and 'Artist's Film Club', ICA, London 2011.

Louisa Martin Biog:

Louisa Martin works across live performance, sound, video and drawing, exploring physiological states as 'spaces' that are both expressed and created by the body and its (moving) images. Recent performances and exhibitions include The Everything and Nothing Problem, Jerwood Space, London, Of Course/The Stour, Stour Valley Arts, Kent, and Album2, Five Years, London. Louisa is based in London and Kent, and is an Associate Artist with Stour Valley Arts.