

## Press Release - The Marmite Prize for Painting

Marmite Prize

8<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May (Friday - Sunday 12 -6pm)

Opening event and Prize Giving Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 6.30 – 9pm

**The Nunnery**, 181 Bow Road, London, E3 2SJ (Tube - Bow Road, DLR - Bow Church, Bus – 8, 25, 205, 425)

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**The Marmite Prize for Painting** is a biennial open submission painting prize and touring exhibition showcasing the best in contemporary painting from the UK and abroad. The final show of the exhibition tour will take place at the Nunnery in East London in April 2011.

This exhibition of a diverse selection of paintings by 48 artists provides the opportunity to view new work by established painters alongside emerging artists. The selected works offer a broad look at contemporary painting, ranging from the monumental, as seen in Tom Ormond's **The New Light of Tomorrow** (2010), to the very dark, such as **The Decomposition of Violets** (2010) by Ben Walker. Amongst the less conventional paintings on display are Daniela Sarigu's, **Loop** (2010), which is made up of cut up strips of painted canvas sitting in a pile on the floor and Soheila Sokhanvari's **Not Dead Yet** (2010), painted directly onto the hard cover of a book.

The curators have dedicated the exhibition hang to American artist Ida Applebroog and as such the works don't always conform to a traditional hang, with some of the paintings installed on wooden structures.

The judges are established painters **Marcus Harvey, Dan Hays, Mali Morris RA** and 2008 Marmite Prize winner **Dai Roberts**. They will select a winner and two runners up from the shortlisted works, with the winner receiving *Hammerhead* (2010), a specially commissioned sculpture made and very kindly donated by **Bill Woodrow RA**. The runners up will receive a pat on the back.

Visitors to the exhibition will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite work in the visitor's choice box. The announcement of the winner will be made at the close of the exhibition through the website [www.marmiteprize.org](http://www.marmiteprize.org)

The Marmite Prize for Painting is currently on show at **Lanchester Gallery Projects**, Coventry (4th March - 2nd April 2011), having toured from **Central Art Gallery**, Tameside (8<sup>th</sup> December 2010 - 26th February 2011)

### Quotes

*"Every year the Marmite Prize gains more entries and more attention, and this year is no different. What's so special about this painting competition is that it is open to everyone. We have established artists alongside emerging talent. Today's prizewinners really are the future stars of the art world."*

Stephanie Moran - Marmite Prize Curator.

*"Being asked to be on the Jury for the Marmite Prize is an incredible honour, as well as a daunting prospect. Contemporary painting is exploding with a superabundance of talent, and a diversity of approaches impossible to categorise, let alone judge."*

Dan Hays – Marmite Prize Judge

### Participating artists

Jeremy Akerman, Georgina Amos, Iain Andrews, Matthew John Atkinson, Karl Bielik, Max Cahn, Amir Chasson, Julie Cockburn, Melanie Comber, Hugh Davies, Louisa Durose, Karl England, David Fletcher, Alice Forward, Patrick Galway, Steph Goodger, David Hancock, Siân Hislop, Tina Jenkins, Kate Knight, Hannah Knox, Matthew Krishanu, Kate Lyddon, Nadine Mahoney, Amy Moffat, Sophie Oates, Tom Ormond, Bernadette O'Toole, Yvonne Parr, Jemimah Patterson, Michael Pybus, Kes Richardson, James Quin, Daniela Sarigu, Paul Savage, Robin Seir, Benjamin Senior, David Small, Soheila Sokhanvari, William Stein, Ryuta Suzuki, David Sweet, Mia Taylor, Mimi Thompson, Ben Walker, Sean Williams, Sarah Kate Wilson, Doreen Wittenbols

## **Notes to Editors**

**The Marmite Prize for Painting** is a non-profit project established in 2006 by painters Marcus Cope and Stephanie Moran. This year the show was selected (from almost 600 entries following an international call for submissions) by Marcus Cope; Steve Dutton, Director, Lanchester Gallery Projects; Marie Holland, Art Curator, Central Art Gallery; Keran James, co-Director studio1.1; Michael Keenan, co-Director studio1.1; Sadie Kerr, Research Assistant, Lanchester Gallery Projects; Stephanie Moran.

The Marmite Prize for painting was first held at the Residence Gallery in Hackney in 2006, dedicated to Georg Baselitz all the works were exhibited upside down. The 2008 exhibition, held at studio1.1 in Shoreditch had an along the ceiling hang dedicated to Oliver Kossack.

The project questions the validity of art prizes that evaluate creative activity with the intention of assigning a monetary value to the 'winning' artwork. As an alternative to a cash prize, the winning painter takes away the marmite, a hand-made vessel, which is awarded by the judges in recognition of artistic excellence.

**The Nunnery** is a contemporary art gallery run by Bow Arts Trust. The gallery supports a diverse range of national and international exhibitions and events.

## **Contact Details**

The exhibition is accompanied by a full colour catalogue. To request a copy or for any other enquiries or high resolution images please email [info@marmiteprize.org](mailto:info@marmiteprize.org) or call Marcus Cope on 07776 495 878