

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

## Winners announced for Young Masters Art Prize 2017

- Azita Moradkhani wins Young Masters Art Prize and Young Masters Emerging Woman Art Prize
- Lucille Lewin awarded Young Masters Maylis Grand Ceramics Prize
- All female winners in same year Young Masters Emerging Woman Art Prize is launched



Iranian artist Azita Moradkhani has been announced as the winner of the Young Masters Art Prize and inaugural Young Masters Emerging Woman Art Prize, both generously supported by Dr Chris Blatchley. She was presented with her combined £3,000 prize at an award ceremony sponsored by Brownhill Insurance, held this evening, Wednesday 21 June 2017, at Gallery 8 in London's St James's.

Moradkhani was chosen from a shortlist of 18 international artists for her delicately crafted drawings. The female body is central to her work and she uses beauty as her weapon to address complex socio-

political issues. Her use of traditional techniques, skill and delicacy connect her work aesthetically to the art of the past.

Chair of the judges, art historian Godfrey Barker, comments: *'The Young Masters Art Prize is a snapshot of contemporary art now. It had a huge number of entries from 55 countries, a vast majority of those from young or emerging artists. Two things we have never seen before: the prize has been overwhelmed by women (two thirds of the entries) and all nine of the awards have been given to women. Clearly this prize is now at the cutting edge, with an international emphasis that includes North America, Africa, the Middle East and the Islamic world.'*

The Young Masters Art Prize is an international art prize that celebrates all aspects of art history through the eyes of contemporary artists. It was established by gallerist Cynthia Corbett in 2009 and 2017 marks its fourth edition. Over 800 artists from all over the world entered the prize.

Cynthia Corbett comments: *'We're extremely excited about this year's prize and winners. The additional strand of an emerging women's prize has led to overwhelming interest from international female artists. The astounding quality of female applicants has meant that the judges have bestowed all the awards to women. I hope we can now look forward to a future of artistic meritocracy.'*

Two Highly Commended Prizes of £500 courtesy of the Artists' Collecting Society (ACS) were awarded to Laura Hospes and Tamara Al-Mashouk and a new 'Be Smart About Art' award worth £500 was awarded to Katie Spragg. The judges were Godfrey Barker, Melanie Gerlis, Art Market Columnist at the Financial Times and Editor-at-large at The Art Newspaper; Daisy McMullan, Curator; Hannah Rothschild, writer, filmmaker and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery, London; Charles Saumarez Smith, Secretary and Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Arts and Jean Wainwright, Art Historian, Critic and Professor of Contemporary Art and Photography at the University for the Creative Arts.

Lucille Lewin has been announced as the winner of the £1,500 Young Masters Maylis Grand Ceramics Prize, which is supported by collector and philanthropist Maylis Grand. This strand of the Young Masters Art Prize was launched in 2014 to give a separate platform for ceramics and highlight the creative and innovative potential of this artistic medium. She was chosen from 10 shortlisted artists for her work that the judges described as *'completely original'*.

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The judges, Janice Blackburn, former Curator of Arts and Crafts at Sotheby's; collector Preston Fitzgerald; collector and philanthropist, Maylis Grand and the Crafts Council's Daniella Wells, continued: *'We were looking for originality and a strong voice and we were in total harmony about our choice of winner. Lucille's work is experimental, beautifully made and totally original; this is work with a future.'*

Lucille Lewin's work is the result of research into the origins into 18th century European porcelain and the alchemists who invented it. Her pieces, which combine porcelain with other media including glass and salt crystals, references the Victorian Cabinet of Curiosities and the early microscopic photographs of the natural world by Karl Blossfeldt. A £500 Highly Commended Prize was awarded to Lauren Nauman.

The inaugural Young Masters Emerging Woman Art Prize was introduced this year to profile and reward the work of an emerging female artists. In addition to the main prize given to Azita Moradkhani, two Highly Commended Prizes of £250 were awarded to Isabelle van Zeijl and Katie Spragg.

The Young Masters Emerging Woman Art Prize judges were Beth Colocci, Chair of the Trustees of UK Friends of the National Museum of Women in the Arts; Sylvie Gormezano, Chair of the Association of Women Art Dealers; award-winning designer and art collector Ronnette Riley, FAIA and Nadja Swarovski, Member of the Executive Board, Head of Corporate Branding and Communications and Chairperson of the Swarovski Foundation.

An exhibition of work by the Young Masters shortlist and is on show at Gallery 8 in the heart of London's St James's until 24 June 2017. Multi-media artist Gordon Cheung joins the prize exhibition as the Young Masters guest artist. A selection of shortlisted artists will be shown in an exhibition at the Royal Overseas League from 28 June to 8 September 2017 and at the Royal Opera Arcade Gallery from 2 to 14 October 2017 during Frieze week.

## Ends

For more press information and images, please contact Iliana Taliotis on +44 (0)7931 341 112 or [mail@ilianataliotis.com](mailto:mail@ilianataliotis.com)

## Notes to editors

### Young Masters Art Prize winners:

Azita Moradkhani, £2,000 main prize, thanks to Dr Chris Blatchley  
Laura Hospes, £500 Highly Commended courtesy of the Artists' Collecting Society  
Tamara Al-Mashouk, £500 Highly Commended courtesy of the Artists' Collecting Society  
Katie Spragg, Be Smart About Art Award worth £500

### Young Masters Maylis Grand Ceramics Prize winners:

Lucille Lewin, £1,500 main prize, thanks to Maylis Grand  
Lauren Nauman, £500 Highly Commended, thanks to Maylis Grand

### Young Masters Emerging Woman Art Prize winners:

Azita Moradkhani, £1,000 main prize thanks, to Dr Chris Blatchley  
Isabelle van Zeijl, £250 Highly Commended, thanks to Dr Chris Blatchley  
Katie Spragg, £250 Highly Commended, thanks to Dr Chris Blatchley

### Image details:

*Azita Moradkhani*

*Becoming*

*Coloured pencils*

*2016*

*12x16 inches*

# Young Masters

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## **The Young Masters Art Prize shortlist:**

Tamara Al-Mashouk	Liron Kroll	Lars Reiffers
Lucy Beecher Nelson	Liane Lang	Asya Reznikov
Sasha Bowles	Azita Moradkhani	Sheila Rock
Carole Freeman	Yuehan Pan	Antoine Schneck
Amartey Golding	John Phillips	Stephen Snoddy
Laura Hospes	David Piddock	Isabelle van Zeijl

## **The Young Masters Maylis Grand Ceramics Prize shortlist:**

Grant Aston	Lucille Lewin
Andrew Casto	Lauren Nauman
Tessa Eastman	Irina Razumovskaya
Antonie Eikemans	Katie Spragg
Malene Hartmann Rasmussen	Amber Zuber

## **Young Masters Art Prize Shortlist Exhibition at Gallery 8**

8 Duke Street, St James's, London, SW1Y 6BN

Exhibition runs until 24 June 2017

Public opening times: 11am to 7pm daily (or by appointment)

Nearest tubes: Green Park or Piccadilly Circus (St. James's exit)

## **About the Young Masters Art Prize**

In 2009, Cynthia Corbett launched the Young Masters Art Prize, a not-for-profit initiative that gives a platform to both emerging and established artists who pay homage to the skill and innovation of the Old Masters and art of the past. The 2014 edition saw the launch of the first Young Masters Maylis Grand Ceramic Prize for artists working in ceramics. For the first time in 2017, the Young Masters Emerging Woman Art Prize is launched to profile and reward the work of an emerging female artist.

Further information please visit website [www.young-masters.co.uk](http://www.young-masters.co.uk)

Footage of previous winners and clips of interviews with the curator and judges are available to view on the website.

Twitter: [@corbettPROJECTS](https://twitter.com/corbettPROJECTS)

[www.facebook.com/youngmastersartprize](https://www.facebook.com/youngmastersartprize)

[instagram.com/youngmastersartprize](https://www.instagram.com/youngmastersartprize)

## **About The Cynthia Corbett Gallery**

The Cynthia Corbett Gallery is an international contemporary art gallery, which has an annual exhibition programme in London, Los Angeles and New York, as well as exhibiting at contemporary art fairs worldwide. The Gallery represents established American, British and European artists whose careers have been nurtured since the Gallery's inception in 2004. [www.thecynthiacorbettgallery.com](http://www.thecynthiacorbettgallery.com)