



THE COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE PRIZE



Firenze
Strozzina
Palazzo Strozzi

1-24 luglio/July
2016

THE COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE PRIZE FIGURATIVE ART TODAY @ PALAZZO STROZZI



Salt in tea (sale nel tè) di **Lewis Hazelwood-Horner**, vincitore del Columbia Threadneedle Prize 2016

The Strozzina area of Palazzo Strozzi in Florence will be hosting The Columbia Threadneedle Prize 2016 @ Palazzo Strozzi from 1 to 24 July 2015, an exhibition designed to trigger a debate on contemporary figurative art in the work of forty-six international artists selected to mark the prestigious European award known as the Columbia Threadneedle Prize.

Over forty works of art ranging from paintings and drawings to engravings will be coming together to probe the relationship between art and figuration today, taking a fresh look at such traditional genres as portrait painting, landscape painting and still-life. Addressing this theme inevitably means reflecting on the intrinsic value of the artistic image, playing realism off against the abstract and fostering an in-depth debate on our society today as it sinks beneath the weight of an ever increasing number of images disseminated via the new digital communication media. While artists such as **Nicholas Holmes**, **Coll McDonnell** and **Stephen Read** focus on chance, everyday issues and topics from daily life, exploring and extolling the theme of looking in painting, others such as **Lewis Hazelwood-Horner**, **Nicola Bealing** and **Laura Smith** appear to want to rethink the role of painting as a metaphorical tool of the present, at times in a totally dreamlike vein and at others in a profoundly realistic manner.

Palazzo Strozzi is the second venue to host the eighth edition of the Columbia Threadneedle Prize, an award devised and sponsored by Columbia Threadneedle Investments, a leading global asset manager, as part of the support the company dedicates to culture and the arts. The exhibition was first held at the Mall Galleries in London, running from 3 to 20 February 2016, but Palazzo Strozzi will be the first Italian venue to host this prestigious exhibition.

The Columbia Threadneedle Prize is selected by an illustrious international panel: journalist Emma Crichton-Miller; artist, writer and photographer David Dawson; Tim Knox, Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge; Lewis McNaught, Director of Mall Galleries in London; and Arturo Galansino, Director General of the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi in Florence.



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The Columbia Threadneedle Prize 2016 @ Palazzo Strozzi offers Palazzo Strozzi and Florence a unique opportunity to establish new forms of cooperation and to foster an important moment of exchange and debate on contemporary art at the international level. A rich and varied programme of workshops and activities forming part of the event will be held in the Strozzina for the entire duration of the exhibition, providing an opportunity for reflection on the figurative genre in contemporary art and on the relationship between cultural heritage and the contemporary art scene in Europe and in Italy today.

A workshop room, on the other hand, is devoted to the work of three contemporary artists who live and work in Tuscany (Andrea Lunardi, Caterina Sbrana and Nicola Toffolini) and who alternate with one another for the duration of the exhibition, taking turns in devising schemes for cooperating with local young artists and students.

www.palazzostrozzi.org

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Notes to Editors

Established in 2008, the number of entries for The Columbia Threadneedle Prize (formerly The Threadneedle Prize) continues to increase as the Prize gains momentum. In 2015 the Prize attracted 3,828 entries from 1,973 artists from 29 European countries, with 93 works making the final exhibition at Mall Galleries in Central London. The Columbia Threadneedle Prize encourages debate about the growing relevance of figurative and representational art by hosting visitor events throughout the three-week exhibition in London.

See www.columbiathreadneedleprize.com

About Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi

Established in July 2006, the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi marks a significant break in the way cultural institutions have been run in Italy. It is an independent public-private foundation guided by an autonomous Board of Directors appointed by its founding partners. The challenge facing the Fondazione from the outset has been to bring international quality exhibitions and cultural events to Florence and Tuscany, and to “give the Palazzo back to the city and the region.”

Columbia Threadneedle Foundation

Columbia Threadneedle Foundation is committed to investing in the community through partnerships that create positive social impact. We focus on charities that use education, art and sport to engender lasting social change. Common threads we look for in our programmes and charity partners include the ability to build skills and confidence, challenge perspectives and broaden horizons. We believe that a vibrant arts sector brings a wide range of social, cultural and economic benefits. For more than 10 years, Columbia Threadneedle has been a major supporter of the arts in the UK through partnerships that span visual arts, art as therapy and art-based education programmes for diverse groups and communities from London and around the UK.



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About Columbia Threadneedle Investments

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is a leading global asset management group that provides a broad range of actively managed investment strategies and solutions for individual, institutional and corporate clients around the world.

With more than 2000 people including over 450 investment professionals based in North America, Europe and Asia, we manage £320 billion¹ of assets across developed and emerging market equities, fixed income, asset allocation solutions and alternatives.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global asset management group of Ameriprise Financial, Inc., a leading US-based financial services provider. As part of Ameriprise, we are supported by a large and well-capitalised diversified financial services firm.

www.columbiathreadneedle.com

All figures as at 31 December 2015.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global brand name of the Columbia and Threadneedle group of companies.