



PRESS RELEASE APRIL 2015

The London Group Open 2015 Call for Entries

The UK's longest-running and most prestigious artist co-operative, The London Group, is delighted to announce the call for entries for its 82nd open exhibition. **The London Group Open 2015** offers a wonderful opportunity for emerging and established artists to raise their profile, win cash and material prizes, and exhibit their work to the public alongside the Group's esteemed members. This year, entries can be made **online** for the first time, simplifying the application process.

The London Group's archivist, David Redfern, reflects on the long history of the Open: *"In 1917 London Group members extended an invitation to fellow artists to join them in exhibition. Over approximately one hundred years the Group has repeated this invitation eighty-one times, and this year the tradition is continued as present members invite contemporary artists to join them in The London Group Open 2015."*

"The London Group's mission statement is to advance public awareness of contemporary art and the Group is seriously committed to offering artists the opportunity to show, giving them a boost in a tough career, and thereby nurturing and supporting the development of the art of the future. The Group feels privileged to be able to offer a number of valuable prizes and takes pride in acknowledging excellence through these awards. Past exhibitors have gained a great deal from showing alongside members, benefitting from the interaction, and have thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie for which the Group is well-known." Susan Haire, President.

In recognition of today's increasingly diversified art scene, the Open welcomes innovative, challenging works in any medium, including **painting, sculpture, drawing, print, photography, digital, audio, mixed media, installation, video** and **performance**. Successful entrants will see their work hung in one of two exhibitions, staged during October and November 2015 at The Cello Factory.

Previous winners have benefited from a range of subsequent career opportunities, with some even being invited to join The London Group as a member, testifying to the value of the Open as a means of gaining recognition. Caroline Jane Harris, a prizewinner in The London Group Open 2013, states: *"Winning the 'Chelsea Arts Club Trust Stan Smith Award' in 2013 was both a surprise and a fantastic boost to my work at the time, allowing me to invest more in the materials and the finish of my work. As a result I was invited to exhibit in a show at a gallery in Fitzrovia, which led to a solo exhibition there the following year."*

A selection of generous awards will be presented to the most successful works on show, as judged by prize givers and The London Group Selection Committee. Jane England, a Selector from The London Group Open 2013, remarks on the fairness of the process: *“I was impressed by the excellent organisation and care put into the selection process, with every entry given equal consideration and put to a vote.”*

This year’s awards will include a **three-person exhibition** at **The Cello Factory**, and the **Ingram Collection of Modern British & Contemporary Art purchase prize**. Included within the **£5000 prize fund** is the **Chelsea Arts Club Trust Stan Smith Award** for an artist under 35 (£1,500), a **sculpture prize** awarded by Jeff Lowe (£500), the **GX Gallery Annual prize** (£300), and the **Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers Prize for Drawing** (£300). Material prizes include the **Winsor & Newton Materials Prize** for Painting and Drawing (£500), and £300 worth of **photographic services** from Patrick Gorman.

How to Enter:

This year, submissions for The Open should be made **online**, via the link on the website www.thelondongroup.com. There is a £20 entry fee for one submission, £35 for two submissions or £45 for three submissions, to be paid online with the application. Artists can submit up to three works, which must have been produced since 2013.

ENTER ONLINE: www.thelondongroup.com

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Monday 24th August 2015

– Ends –

Notes to Editors:

The London Group was formed in 1913 by thirty-two artists from The Camden Town Group and English Vorticists, including Jacob Epstein, Wyndham Lewis, and Walter Sickert, with the aim of creating an independent artist-led exhibiting body to counterbalance the power of institutions such as the Royal Academy. Since its foundation, the organisation has been an integral force in the growing and supporting of diverse and emerging artistic talent across Britain. The group’s mentoring and exhibiting programme has gone on to support the careers of many of Britain’s best-known artists. Frank Auerbach, Frank Bowling, Mary Fedden, Barbara Hepworth, David Hockney, L.S. Lowry, Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland are among those who have benefitted from membership to The London Group throughout their careers. www.thelondongroup.com

The Cello Factory has been The London Group’s exhibiting base for 6 years. It is a stunning double-height gallery in central London with copious natural light and a blacked-out video space. As well as having numerous London Group shows it has a very busy UK and international exhibiting programme and is shortly to host an installation for the Fine Art Society. The Cello Factory is also a popular venue for concerts, particularly in showcasing young musicians, and the London Ear Festival of contemporary music took place in March. It is located paces from Waterloo Station.

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