



## **Clyde & Co – Blank Canvas 2018 Annual Commissioning Art Prize**

### **Introduction**

As part of Clyde & Co's ongoing long term project to support graduating students from Art Colleges, they have for the eighth consecutive year made available a stunning site with enormous creative potential at their offices situated in St Botolph's, Aldgate, London.

This takes the form of a 2.75m (h) x 19.02m (w) flat, white wall (finish plaster and paint on plasterboard) on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor which forms one side of a main thoroughfare corridor leading from the Knowledge Centre to the Auditorium and Restaurant. The corridor has an interesting enhanced perspective by way of reducing/increasing width and has the added advantage of being opposite a floor to ceiling glass wall overlooking the adjacent atrium space. This means that the work can be viewed by passing traffic in the corridor and, also, at a distance, from three floors on the other side of the atrium.

### **The Project**

The project is open to final year Fine Arts BA undergraduate students attending Colleges of Art in the United Kingdom for competitive selection by way of submitted proposals and visualisations, and can be applied for by either individuals or groups of artists.

The form of the work can be various, from drawing through painting to low relief (maximum depth 150mm), and can be made/constructed with any appropriate materials that can be applied to the described surface that would not represent a health and safety hazard.

Please note that all students must take into account that their proposals must not allow for fabrication on site. They can only allow for assembly/installation on site in a modular format.

The commissioned artwork would remain in situ for a minimum of one year.

### **The Prize**

The total commissioning prize will be £3,000 (whether it be to one student or subdivided for a collaborative project). A materials budget not exceeding £1,000 + VAT will also be made available. This budget may also need to account for the protection of existing floor surfaces and surrounding areas during installation. Costs incurred for the transportation and installation (within the UK) of the completed work to Clyde & Co's London offices will be met by Clyde & Co. Subject to the medium of your Blank Canvas Submission, art work will be returned to you in late August 2019. Transportation of work within the UK will be covered by Clyde & Co. if you require work to be returned outside of the UK, this will be at your own cost or must be factored into the £1,000 materials budget.



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### **Previous Prize Winners**

Previously, the prize for the first three years was made available to students from Central St Martins, Chelsea and Wimbledon Colleges of Art. The inaugural winner of the Blank Canvas prize was Barbara Tong from Chelsea College of Art with her work *One Hundred Miles Away*. The 2012 winner was Conall McAteer from Central St Martins with his *Not For Love Nor Money* installation and in 2013 the Chelsea College of Art winner, Abi Freckleton, fabricated and installed *Contemplation Making (Sun Edges)* which comprised of ceramic, oil on canvas and tape.

In its fourth year, the Blank Canvas Prize was opened to all Fine Arts BA final year undergraduates in the UK and was won by Emily Motto, a graduate of Ruskin School of Art, who proposed to cover the wall with a relief principally made from nearly 50,000 glue sticks. The sticks hold light; at times appearing completely transparent, but from certain angles form opaque panels of reflected light. The viewer's perspective of the cluster of sticks continually changes as they walk through the space, but from afar the ends look like tiny reflective particles, or pixels. Emily also went on to win the 2014 Red Mansion Art Prize.

The 2015 prize winner, Rene Gonzalez, a graduate of City & Guilds London Art School, proposed capturing the entire elevation with a painting titled *To My One, Sole Desire*, which was partly inspired by 'The Lady and The Unicorn' grand scale Flemish tapestry series. The 2016 prize winner, Ivy Chan, a graduate from Chelsea College of Art, proposed a series of pieces titled *Eleven Ways of 'Sitting'*, a study that questions the straight line by using her own body as an instrument to sense and rebel against her surrounding spaces.

You can currently view the installation by the 2017 prize winner, Zsuzsa Benke, also a graduate from Chelsea College of Art with her work *Not Just What You Say, But The Way You Look At Me*. With a digitally created collage illustrating NASA's 'Earthsong', a reference to coral bleaching and agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, Zsuzsa's aim with this project is to generate discussion around our individual and collective responsibilities towards our future on this planet.

This project provides students with an opportunity to understand and participate in a potential commissioning process. For the first time the students are presented with the challenge and discipline of adhering to the constraints of a materials budget, proposing a design that will work within the space, considering the logistics of installation and meeting a deadline.



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The previous winners have to date fully exploited their success in their chosen fields.

A Power Point , Entry Form, Floor plan and Elevation of the space is also attached.

#### **Site Visits**

All final year undergraduates who may wish to submit a proposal for the 2018 prize will have the opportunity to view the space on either:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Between 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Between 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – Between 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Please inform both Uma Akther and Michael Boitier by email which of the above dates you wish to attend and your approximate time of arrival.

#### **Timescale**

The deadline for submissions to be submitted is **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2018** and should be sent to:

Uma Akther  
Clyde & Co LLP  
St Botolph Building  
138 Houndsditch  
London EC3A 7AR

T: 020 7876 4693

[uma.akther@clydeco.com](mailto:uma.akther@clydeco.com)

[artawards@clydeco.com](mailto:artawards@clydeco.com)

Submissions can be hand delivered, posted or submitted electronically and must be accompanied by the supplied completed entry form.

The winning submission will need to be commenced after completion of the graduation show and be installed at Clyde & Co's offices during August, 2018.



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**Selection Process**

The initial assessment of the proposals will occur during the week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, and students may be contacted if it is felt further clarification of their respective submissions is required. Thereafter, the Clyde & Co Art Committee will be circulated with all the proposals and will meet for the formal short list selection process during the first half of May, 2018. The short list will consist of a maximum of four candidates and all will be invited to present their submissions at Clyde & Co's offices on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018. All reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed.

The winner will be notified by the end of May, 2018.

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