

2022 Highland Art Prize

The inaugural Highland Art Prize exhibition and competition was held at the City Contemporary Art Gallery in Perth from 14th-22nd October, in conjunction with the Royal National Mòd and supported by Perth & Kinross Council.

Coordinated by the Highland Society of London, the exhibition comprised sixty-six recent artworks submitted by fifteen art organisations from across the Highlands and Islands – including An Lanntair (Lewis & Harris), An Talla Solais (Ullapool), Art Lochaber, the Art Society of Inverness, Artmap Argyll, the East Sutherland Art Society, Milngavie Art Club, the Mull Highland Games, the Perthshire Art Association, Resipole Studios (Ardnamurchan & Morvern), the Sky and Lochalsh Arts & Crafts Association, the Society of Caithness Artists, the Society of Badenoch & Strathspey Artists, the Scottish Arts Club and the Uist Arts Association.

The competition was judged by Islay artist and BBC ALBA presenter Heather Dewar, who commented that: “In my opinion the standard has been uniformly high, and I have had great difficulty in choosing the shortlist – let alone selecting a winner. It has been a great honour to have been involved in this inaugural event and congratulations to all of the artists who submitted work.”

The prize-giving took place at the City Contemporary Art Gallery on 21st October, hosted by former Gaelic Singer of the Year winner Mary Ann Kennedy and recorded for broadcast by BBC ALBA’s An La program. Maggie Cunningham, Vice President of the Royal National Mòd, opened the event by underlining the importance of art in Gaelic culture and sharing her hope that the Highland Art Prize would be a fixture of Mòd week for many years to come. Mary Ann Kennedy then conducted the audience on a tour of Heather Dewar’s ten-strong shortlist, before revealing the results:

Winner: Drift by David Page (Mull Highland Games), pictured left with Alex Ogilvie, Mary Ann Kennedy and Maggie Cunningham

Runner-up: Andrea, my friend/Andrea, mo charaid by Rupachitta Robertson (An Lanntair)



Alex Ogilvie, trustee of the Highland Society of London, presented the prize, including £1,000 (to be shared between the artist and corresponding art organisation, to encourage grassroots participation in art) and an exhibition opportunity in Glasgow during 2023 to tie-in with next year’s Highland Art Prize as part of the Mòd in Paisley (courtesy of artist studio’s charity Wasps).

All of the artwork from the 2022 Highland Art Prize is on view at <https://highlandartprize.org.uk/>.