



## Derwent Art Prize 2024 Now calling for entries

The Derwent Art Prize is launching its 2024 call for entries, giving artists worldwide the opportunity to...

- Show their work to a prestigious panel of selectors,
- Exhibit at gallery@oxo in central London,
- Win prizes totalling £13,000.

Artworks can be entered until 4 January 2024, 5pm. Visit: [www.derwent-artprize.com](http://www.derwent-artprize.com)



Xuetong Wang, *Dog Walker*, Derwent Art Prize 2020, Young Artist First Prize

**Created in 2012 by Derwent**, the fine art brand known for its high-quality pencils, the Derwent Art Prize rewards excellence in contemporary graphic art.

The Prize invites artists to submit the very best **2D and 3D artworks created in any pencil**, including colour, water soluble, pastel, graphite and charcoal pencils.

The Derwent Art Prize is dedicated to **championing art made in pencil and supporting artists in their careers**, through an international exhibition in the beating heart of the Southbank, one of London's richest cultural areas, and prizes of up to £4,000 plus a year's supply of Derwent products.

Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> edition, the competition has attracted more than **20,000 entries from 75 countries**, with last year's competition receiving over 6,100 entries.

All of the entries will be considered by a **prestigious panel of selectors**:

- **Sergio Gomez, Artist and Curator.** Based in Chicago, Sergio Gomez is known for his large-scale paintings and charcoal drawings. He has showcased his work in over 150 group exhibitions and 45 solo exhibitions worldwide. His works are held in the collections of institutions like the National Museum of Mexican Art and the Brauer Museum. Sergio is also the Curator and Director of Exhibitions at the Zhou B. Art Center in Chicago, and Director and founder of 33 Contemporary Gallery.
- **Curtis Holder, London-based artist and Derwent ambassador.** Curtis Holder won Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year in 2020 for his multilayered portraits in graphite and coloured pencil. He has exhibited widely around the UK, including his recent solo exhibition, *The Makers: Portraits from Backstage*, at the National Theatre. His work is held in private and public collections including the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and Soho House.
- **Valérie Sonnier, Artist and Professor, Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris.** Valérie Sonnier works across drawing, painting, photography, and film to explore personal memories and architectures. In 2003, she was appointed as a professor of drawing and morphology at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. She recently held solo exhibitions at the Maison de Victor Hugo in Paris and gallery DILECTA. Valérie Sonnier is represented by Galerie Nadja Vilenne in Belgium.
- **Helen Waters, Curator and Director, Cristea Roberts Gallery.** Helen Waters was the first Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, and spent five years as Curator of the New Art Centre in Wiltshire before joining Cristea Roberts Gallery in 2006. She has developed the gallery's artist and exhibition programme, curating numerous exhibitions and writing catalogues.



Dylan Leddington, *Kenopsia 1*, Derwent Art Prize 2022, Young Artist Second Prize

Approximately 80 artworks will be shortlisted and shown in the Derwent Art Prize exhibition at **gallery@oxo in London**, from 4 to 14 April 2024.

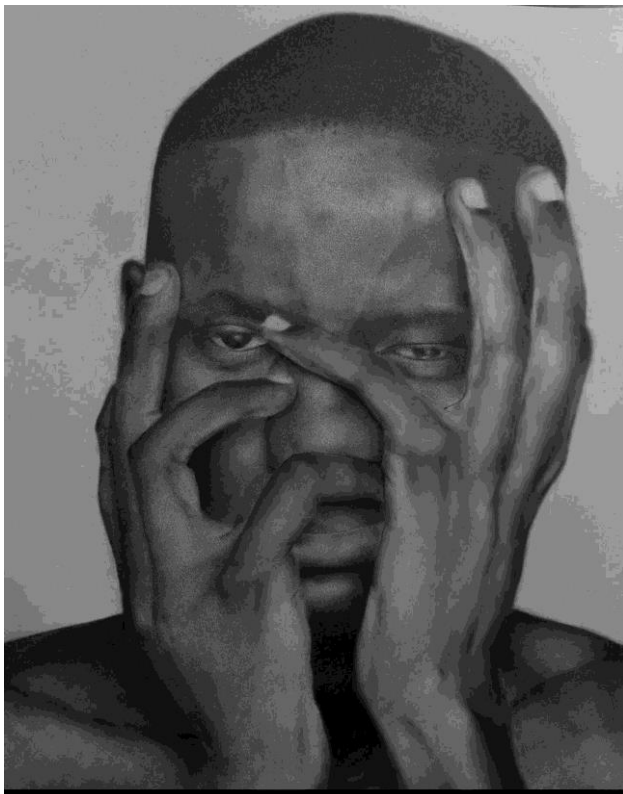
Hundreds of visitors are expected to witness the best in pencil art at **gallery@oxo in London**, a contemporary space in London's busy South Bank riverside walkway.

**Prizes totalling over £13,000** will be awarded in a private awards ceremony at the Private View, Wednesday 3 April 2024, on the opening night of the exhibition, including:

- **First Prize:** £4,000 plus a year's supply of Derwent products.
- **Second Prize:** £2,000 and a box of Derwent Lightfast Pencils.
- **People's Choice Award:** £500.
- **New Artist Prize:** £500 to an artist who has never entered the Derwent Art Prize before.

The Derwent Art Prize aims to **support young artists** and provide them with a platform early in their career. Artists under the age of 25 will have a reduced entry fee - just £5 per work - and two dedicated prizes:

- **Young Artist First Prize:** £4,000.
- **Young Artist Second Prize:** £2,000.



Femi Ikotun, *Insecure*, Derwent Art Prize 2022, First Prize  
Melo Konini, *Mum, I'm Bored*, Derwent Art Prize 2022, Young Artist First Prize

**Artists have until 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 to submit up to 6 works created in pencil.** To enter and for further details including full terms and conditions on entry requirements, please visit:

[www.derwent-artprize.com](http://www.derwent-artprize.com)

**For press enquiries**, please contact Marine Costello at Parker Harris: [marine@parkerharris.co.uk](mailto:marine@parkerharris.co.uk)

**For all other enquiries**, please contact Parker Harris: [info@parkerharris.co.uk](mailto:info@parkerharris.co.uk)

**To stay updated on the Derwent Art Prize**, please follow us and join the conversation using #DerwentArtPrize:

Facebook: [@DerwentArtPrize](https://www.facebook.com/DerwentArtPrize)

Instagram: [@DerwentArtPrize](https://www.instagram.com/DerwentArtPrize)

**For news on Derwent products**, please visit the [Derwent Art website](https://www.derwent-art.com) and follow on social media:

Facebook: [@DerwentArtOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/DerwentArtOfficial)

Instagram: [@DerwentArtOfficial](https://www.instagram.com/DerwentArtOfficial)

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

**To keep up to date with our projects**, please follow Parker Harris on social media:

Facebook: [@ParkerHarrisCo](https://www.facebook.com/ParkerHarrisCo)

Instagram: [@ParkerHarrisCo](https://www.instagram.com/ParkerHarrisCo)

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

- Ends -

## **Notes to Editors**

### **Competition Details:**

1. Entry portal: [www.derwent-artprize.com](http://www.derwent-artprize.com)
2. Entry fee: £15 for the first work and £5 for each subsequent work. For artists aged 25 or younger: £5 for each work.
3. Accepted mediums: Pencil, coloured pencil, water soluble, pastel, graphite and charcoal (all in either 2D or 3D).
4. Maximum number of works: 6.
5. Deadline: 4 January 2024, 5pm GMT.

### **Prizes:**

1. First Prize: £4,000 plus a year's supply of Derwent products.
2. Second Prize: £2,000 and a box of Derwent Lightfast Pencils.
3. People's Choice Award: £500.
4. New Artist Prize: £500 to an artist that has never exhibited in the Derwent Art Prize.
5. Young Artist First Prize: £4,000.
6. Young Artist Second Prize: £2,000.

### **Key Dates:**

- 4 January 2024, 5pm: Deadline for entries.
- 3 April 2024: Private View and Announcement of the Winners.
- 4 April 2024: Exhibition opens to the public at gallery@oxo.
- 14 April 2024: Exhibition closes.

### **Selector biographies:**

- **Sergio Gomez, artist and curator:** Sergio Gomez is a visual artist based in Chicago. Renowned for his large-scale figurative abstraction paintings and charcoal

drawings, his artistic exploration revolves around the cycles of life. Sergio has showcased his work in over 150 group exhibitions and 45 solo exhibitions across the United States, Romania, Italy, Mexico, and Vienna, including 4 solo museum exhibitions. His pieces are held in the collections of esteemed institutions like the National Museum of Mexican Art and the Brauer Museum, as well as in other public and private collections. Beyond his studio practice, Sergio Gomez has built a prolific career as a curator, having curated over 100 exhibitions since 2010. He currently serves as the Curator and Director of Exhibitions at the Zhou B. Art Center in Chicago, is the Director and founder of 33 Contemporary Gallery. Sergio has curated special projects for notable organizations including the Chicago Park District, Chicago Garfield Park Conservatory, ArtSpot Miami International Art Fair, Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali di Turin, National Museum of Mexican Art, and Expo Chicago Art Fair, among others. Through his Artist Next Level Podcast, which spans over 350 episodes, he inspires artists worldwide to develop their art careers.

- **Curtis Holder, Artist and Derwent ambassador:** Curtis Holder (born 1968) is a London based artist working primarily in the medium of graphite and coloured pencil on paper. He studied Graphic Design at Kingston University and completed postgraduate studies in Character Animation at Central Saint Martins, London. Taking inspiration from intimate conversations with the people he draws, Holder's large-scale multilayered pencil portraits are dynamically tender, emerging in a wayward series of febrile lines to reveal a sense of his subjects' form, movement and emotional intent. Preliminary pencil marks remain on the paper as part of his energetic process of capturing fleeting gestures and emotions with sensitivity and raw honesty. In 2020, Curtis Holder won Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year. Impressed by his distinctive visual language, the panel described his work as "magical, courageous and startlingly new". Garnering further critical acclaim and awards for his work ongoing since winning Sky Arts' competition, Holder has exhibited widely in the UK and in Paris, France. His work is held in private and public collections including the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Soho House and the National Theatre where he became the first ever artist in residence in 2022. He is a member of Contemporary British Portrait Painters (CBPP) and an Associate Member of the Society of Graphic Fine Art (SGFA).
- **Valérie Sonnier, Artist and Professor, Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris:** Valérie Sonnier (born 1967) graduated from the Beaux-Arts in Paris in 1993. In 2003, she was appointed as a professor of drawing and morphology. Through the use of various mediums including drawing, painting, photography, and film, Sonnier's works explore the concepts of presence and absence, with nostalgic architectures and ghostly apparitions. A series of her photographs from Galerie Huguier have become part of the school's photography collection. In the fall of 2022, a solo exhibition entitled "Tout dit dans l'infini quelque chose à quelqu'un" was dedicated to her at the Maison de Victor Hugo in Paris, where she exhibited her latest series evoking the writer's relationship with spiritism and the beyond. A monograph of her work has recently been published by Editions des Beaux-Arts de Paris. Valérie Sonnier is represented by Galerie Nadja Vilenne in Belgium. The gallery and publishing house DILECTA held a solo exhibition of her works and exhibited a selection of drawings at the Drawing Now contemporary drawing fair in Paris in March 2023.

- **Helen Waters, Curator and Director, Cristea Roberts Gallery:** Helen Waters began her career as Exhibition & Education Officer at ArtSway in Hampshire. She was the first Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, and spent five years as Curator of the New Art Centre, Roche Court in Wiltshire before joining Alan Cristea Gallery (now Cristea Roberts Gallery) in 2006. Waters became a Director of Cristea Roberts Gallery in 2012 and has developed the gallery's artist and exhibition programme, curating numerous exhibitions and writing catalogues, both for the gallery and for external institutions. She holds a degree in Modern & Medieval Languages from Cambridge University and a Masters in Art Museum Studies from the Courtauld Institute of Art. She was the founding Chair of the Roche Court Educational Trust and has been a selector for the Jerwood Sculpture Prize, Collect Art Fair, the Sunday Times Watercolour Competition and the Clifford Chance Purchase Prize.

## **More about Derwent:**

### **Derwent**

For generations, artists have chosen and trusted the Derwent brand for art materials around the world. With a proud heritage dating back to 1832, Derwent's innovation comes from a deep understanding of artists. Derwent appreciates that their needs and aspirations may change over their artistic life, and with this in mind has produced a range of art materials that span from the first colouring pencil to the highest professional quality products – the majority of which are made in their British manufacturing plant in the Lake District, Cumbria, UK.

[www.derwentart.com/en-gb](http://www.derwentart.com/en-gb)

### **gallery@oxo**

gallery@oxo is a prestigious exhibition space located on the busy South Bank Riverside Walkway, which showcases the best photography, contemporary design, architecture and issue-based exhibitions, and attracts large audiences with an average of 9,000 visitors per month. With floor to ceiling windows overlooking the River Thames, gallery@oxo is a bright and airy open space, highly visible to visitors on London's prime cultural trail between the Southbank Centre, Hayward Gallery and Tate Modern. gallery@oxo is owned and managed by Coin Street Community Builders (CSCB). The gallery exhibitions are carefully selected and form an important part of the company's free arts activities.

[www.coinstreet.org/space-and-venue-hire/galleryoxo](http://www.coinstreet.org/space-and-venue-hire/galleryoxo)

### **Parker Harris**

Co-founded by Emma Parker and Penny Harris in 1990, Parker Harris is now one of the leading visual arts consultancies in the UK, and is the project manager for the Derwent Art Prize. A small dynamic team, they pride themselves in expert creation and project management of visual arts projects spanning all disciplines and all scales. Their clients range from trusts and foundations, SMEs and multinationals to charities, arts organisations and individual artists.

[www.parkerharris.co.uk](http://www.parkerharris.co.uk)