

Royal Academician David Remfry, former Vogue picture editor-turned-curator Robin Muir, the Tate's Head of Learning, Programme and Resources Fiona Kingsman and filmmakers Sarah Cunliffe and Kathy Oldridge are to judge the 2016 National Open Art Competition.

Professional and amateur artists aged 15 and over can now submit work to the main 2016 competition. For the first time, a new miniatures category is being offered alongside categories in painting, drawing, original print, photography, wall hung installation, digital art and moving image. Each entry is judged anonymously, making the competition one of the most democratic in the UK and Ireland operating today.

Past winners include Kelvin Okafor, Sarah Jane Bellwood, Vaughn Horsman, Jane McAdam Freud and Harry Borden.

Judge David Remfry said: "National Open Art is an important platform for artists and it's wonderful to be involved as a judge in the competition's 20th year. The finalists are always an eclectic mix and a reflection of the impressive talent at work in the UK and Ireland today. I would encourage artists to apply to - it really can make a difference to their careers."

The 2015 competition attracted nearly 4000 entries and awarded around £60,000 in prizes and mentoring opportunities to 35 winning artists. For the second year running, young artists aged 14 and under can also enter as part of the NOA children's competition.

This year's finalists will be exhibited in NOA's Winter Exhibition at Mercers' Hall in October where the prize winners will be announced. For the second year, people will be able to vote online for their favourite long-listed piece to be included in the Winter Exhibition when NOA16's World Vote opens in August.

Neil Lawson-Baker, chair of NOA, said: "It is amazing to think the National Open Art Competition has been running for 20 years. We have seen some incredible artists flourish through the competition during this time and I have every hope that this year's competition will be the most inspiring and thought-provoking yet."

The 500 long-listed entries from this year's competition will be for sale through NOA's website and at various exhibitions.

NOA16 is open for entries from 1 March until midnight on 10 July 2016. Finalists will be announced in September, and the winners revealed on 27 October. Entry costs £20 per adult entry, £5 per child entry. For more information visit www.thenationalopenartcompetition.com.



TOP: Gillian Hyland Look Away BELOW: Songe Kaye Asleep