



Press Release: 6 October 2015

## **Winners of the World Illustration Awards 2015 announced at Somerset House**

The two overall winners of the World Illustration Awards (WIA) were announced last night at a celebration at Somerset House. The event marked the 39th year of the prestigious Awards that celebrate the illustration industry as an important contributor to global visual culture with a month-long exhibition at Somerset House.

Geoff Grandfield, a prominent illustrator, announced the two overall winners. In the Professional category, Oliver Kugler was commended for his poignant reportage illustrations of Syrian refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan. The New Talent Prize was given to recent graduate Jessica Bromley Bartram, recognised for her work *Sargasso*, a story that tells of a man who falls desperately in love with a drowned woman.

Andrew Coningsby, Chairman of the Association of Illustrators (AOI) opened the evening with an address that focused on the importance and development of a of global illustration award. Marion Deuchars spoke about the need for image making and the significance of the Awards in recognising and promoting the finest work in the industry. Deuchars presented the awards for the eight sub-categories considered this year: Advertising, Books, Children's Books, Public Realm, Design, Editorial, Self Initiated Work, Research and Knowledge Communication.

This year, the AOI partnered for the first time with the USA's Directory of Illustration with a view to increase the Awards and Exhibition's global perspective. Over 2,000 entries were submitted by artists from all over the world, from the UK to Australia, South Africa to Korea as well as mainland Europe and the USA.

An exhibition of selected highlights taking the form of 50 framed works, 9 eggs painted with celebrity faces, 3 video animations and an iPad game application will take place 5 October – 1 November 2015 at Somerset House, where the AOI is a resident in the site's creative community. The exhibition will then tour various venues around the UK.

1 UWTSO Swansea: 16 November 2015 – 11 December 2015

2 Chapel Gallery, Ormskirk: 11 January – 21 February 2016

3 Roe Valley Arts, Limvady: 29 February – 10 April 2016

4 Oriol Gallery at Clotworthy House, Antrim: 18 April – 29 May 2016

5 TBC

[www.theaoi.com/awards](http://www.theaoi.com/awards)

For more information, please contact:

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### **Notes to Editor**

#### **Exhibition Listings Information**

**Dates:** 5 October – 1 November 2015

**Opening Hours:** Daily, 10.00 – 18.00

**Admission:** Free

**Address:** New Wing, Somerset House, London, WC2R 1LA

**Transport:** Temple, Embankment Charing Cross, Waterloo

**Somerset House Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/SomersetHouse](http://www.facebook.com/SomersetHouse)

**Somerset House Instagram:** [@SomersetHouseLondon](https://www.instagram.com/SomersetHouseLondon)

**Somerset House Twitter:** [@SomersetHouse](https://twitter.com/SomersetHouse)

**The AOI Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/theaoi](http://www.facebook.com/theaoi)

**The AOI Twitter:** [@theaoi](https://twitter.com/theaoi)

**The AOI Instagram:** [@association\\_of\\_illustrators](https://www.instagram.com/association_of_illustrators)

**The Directory of Illustration Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/DirIllustration>

**The Directory of Illustration Twitter:** [@DirIllustration](https://twitter.com/DirIllustration)

**Exhibition Hashtag:** #WIA2015

**Somerset House public enquiries:** 020 7845 4600

#### **About Somerset House**

Somerset House is a unique part of the London cultural scene, Somerset House is an historic building where surprising and original work comes to life. From its 18th century origins, it has been a centre for debate and discussion – an intellectual powerhouse for the nation. Today, Somerset House is a key cultural destination in London in which to experience a broad range of artistic activity, engage with artists, designers and makers and be a part of a major creative forum – an environment that is relaxed, welcoming to all and inspirational to visit while providing a stimulating workplace for the cultural and creative industries. Since its opening in 2000, Somerset House has built up a distinctive outdoor public programme including Skate, concerts, an open-air film season and a diverse range of temporary exhibitions throughout the site focusing on contemporary culture including photography, fashion, architecture and design, with an extensive integrated learning programme. We currently attract well over 2 million visitors every year. It is probably the biggest community of creative organisations in London including The Courtauld Gallery and Institute of Art, King's College London Cultural Institute and over 100 other creative businesses. It currently attracts approximately 2.5 million visitors every year.

[www.somersethouse.org.uk](http://www.somersethouse.org.uk).

#### **About The Association of Illustrators (AOI)**

The Association of Illustrators (AOI) is a non-profit trade association with a membership that includes freelance illustrators, agents, clients, students and colleges. Established in 1973, it is the leading body to represent illustrators in the UK and campaigns for illustrators' rights, continually working to increase the professional standing of illustrators, commercially and artistically. The AOI works to improve contract and contracting practice extended to illustrators by commissioners.

[www.theaoi.com](http://www.theaoi.com)

#### **About The Directory of Illustration**

The Directory of Illustration is widely regarded as the leading marketing program for illustrators in the United States. Their website and print resources are relied on by qualified art buyers from all over the world when they need to commission illustration.

[www.directoryofillustration.com](http://www.directoryofillustration.com)

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