

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Investing in Creativity: The Bank Celebrates Our Region's Exceptional Young Artist's in Annual Awards

Eye, Suffolk – [10/11/2023]



Photo: Award Winners [left to right] Hannah Andrews-Miller, Nikki Collier and Bayley Keen. Credit Binx Kingdom.

On Friday 27th October The Bank Arts Centre, Eye, hosted the closing celebration for their annual student exhibition and awards – The Bank's Young Artist Award.

Re-launched last year, this initiative was established to showcase Suffolk's exceptional creative talent, provide development opportunities, and develop a platform supporting young artists. This year's exhibition featured the work of 22 Students from Hartismere School, Eye, and Suffolk One Sixth Form College, Ipswich. The student's work was selected for demonstrating creativity, exploration, and refinement.

The awards evening was the highlight of The Bank's exhibitions calendar and welcomed the students, their family and friends, teachers, friends of The Bank, and members of the community to celebrate. The evening was hosted by The Bank's Arts Director, Abbie Schug, and guest presented by executors of The Peter Campbell Trust, Gary Rowland and Deborah Bull. All students featured in the exhibition were shortlisted for numerous awards and commendations presented at the awards evening, including prizes and opportunities worth over £1500.

Hannah Andrews-Miller was the recipient of the evening's main award - **Young Artist Award 2023** – and will be receiving a mini solo exhibition at The Bank, mentoring and £200 towards Art Materials. **The Community Choice Award** – voted for by visitors to The Bank, was awarded to Nikki Collier, who will also be receiving an exhibition opportunity. Members of the judging panel awarded additional

Certificates of Commendation to Yasmin Wakefield, Keira King, Kya Heath, Tamsyn Phillips & Bayley Keen.

The Bank's Judging Panel: Abbie Schug (*Artist, CVAN Platform Graduate Alumni & Arts Director at The Bank*), Karen Turner (*Figure Artist & VAA Professional Artist Award Winner*), Charlie Meyer (*Artist & Illustrator*), Steven Goddard (*Abstract Artist & NUA Alumni*) and Binx Kingdom (*Non-Binary Multi-Media Artist & Winner of The Bank's Young Artist Award 2022*).

The Peter Campbell Trust sponsored additional awards for this year's event. The Trust manages the estate of prolific artist, Peter Campbell (1931-1989) who spent the last decade of his life living and working in The Abbey, Eye. Executors of The Trust, Gary Rowland and Deborah Bull, developed bespoke awards to recognise students displaying attributes of Peter Campbell's creative practice.

Recipients of The Peter Campbell Awards are Izzie Wilding (Award for Exploration of Media & Technique), Nikki Collier (Award for Excellence in Fine Art), Joe Hicks (Award for Innovative use of Mixed Media), and Eve Williamson (Award for Creative Ambition). Each receiving £200 from the Trust to support their creative practices.

"At The Bank, we are incredibly proud to provide innovative and unique opportunities that support our local young artists. This year's cohort of students have explored their creative disciplines in an exciting and refreshing way, and our visitors have been amazed by the standard and diversity of the students work. The award continues to grow year on year, and it is a privilege to work with so many students who are dedicated to exploring the arts, and even more so, that we can be part of their creative journey." – Abbie Schug, Arts Director

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the students featured in this year's Young Artist Award. Special thank you to the Art Departments at Hartismere School and Suffolk One Sixth Form College for their invaluable support and participation in this event. We express our gratitude to the community, organisations, Eye town council, and BMSDC for their unwavering support; and to all our volunteer staff who dedicate their time to help make The Bank the exciting creative hub it is today.

For more information about What's On at The Bank Arts Centre, please visit www.thebankeye.org

About The Bank Arts Centre

The Bank Arts Centre (Eyes Open CIC) is a volunteer-led, not-for-profit creative hub providing inclusive opportunities in the Arts and Digital. Based in a Grade-II listed ex-Midlands Bank building in the heart of Eye, this thriving community space hosts a diverse programme of exhibitions, workshops, activities, and live events, where everyone can come together to celebrate and explore creativity.

Website: www.thebankeye.org

Instagram: @thebankartscentre / @thebank.gallery

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