



Smithsonian
*Donald W. Reynolds Center for
American Art and Portraiture
National Portrait Gallery*

News

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Seven Artists Chosen for Shortlist

The National Portrait Gallery's Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006

Fifty-one finalists' works will be on view in the exhibition opening July 1

When the National Portrait Gallery opens July 1, in its gloriously refurbished home, 51 newly created portraits will be on view. These works are finalists in the first-ever U.S. national portrait competition, the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006. The seven artists who have been selected for the shortlist are: Brett Bigbee, New York; Nuno de Campos, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Jenny Dubnau, Jackson Heights, N.Y.; Justin Hayward, Bountiful, Utah; David Lenz, Shorewood, Wis.; Yuqi Wang, Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Alan Caomin Xie, Atlanta. Each artist will be awarded a cash prize; including one \$25,000 first prize.

The competition received more than 4,000 entries from emerging and mid-career portrait and figurative artists, demonstrating that portraiture is alive and thriving across the United States. Future competitions, to be held triennially, may explore other forms of portraiture, including watercolor, drawing, photography, film, video and electronic and digital media.

“In recent years, many visual artists have again taken up the challenge of ‘capturing’ human individuality in their art,” said Marc Pachter, director of the National Portrait Gallery. “Through this competition, the Gallery welcomes the continuing reinvention of portraiture as a vital art form for the 21st century.”

The competition made good use of new and emerging technology. Not only were most entries submitted online, but several artists were invited to post electronic journals. In this innovative feature of the competition, called “Portrait of an Artist,” 10 artists were selected to chronicle their daily lives as the competition judging approached. Now the artists selected for the shortlist have been invited to post regular entries online. One of these artists, Justin Hayward,

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was one of the original 10 artists selected to post online entries. In addition, three more of those originally selected to post online were chosen as finalists.

Finalists for the competition were chosen in early March and the first prize winner will be announced at the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition Award Dinner on June 23. (A full list of the finalists follows at the end of this release). The first prize of \$25,000 will include a commission to create a portrait of a remarkable living American for the Portrait Gallery's permanent collection. Additionally, one exhibiting artist will win the People's Choice Award, which will be announced on Sept. 15. In this part of the competition visitors to the exhibition, both online and in the gallery, will be able to cast a vote for their favorite portrait in the competition.

Jurors for the competition include independent scholar and curator Trevor Fairbrother; Thelma Golden, director of The Studio Museum in Harlem, N.Y.; the artist Sidney Goodman; art critic and scholar Katy Siegel; National Portrait Gallery director Marc Pachter; Carolyn K. Carr, deputy director; and Brandon Fortune, associate curator of painting and sculpture.

This competition is made possible by the generosity of Virginia Outwin Boochever, whose gift will foster the acquisition of innovative contemporary portraiture for the Portrait Gallery. This exhibition will be open to the public from July 1 through Feb. 18, 2007.

The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery tells the stories of America through the individuals who have built America's society and culture. Through the visual arts, performing arts, and new media, the Gallery portrays poets and presidents, visionaries and villains, actors and activists who speak American history. For more information, visit www.portraitcompetition.si.edu.

The National Portrait Gallery was established by an Act of Congress in 1962 and opened to the public in 1968. The museum's collection of nearly 20,000 works ranges from paintings and sculpture to photographs and drawings. The National Portrait Gallery will open July 1, in the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture at Eighth and F Streets N.W., Washington, D.C. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; www.npg.si.edu or www.reynoldscenter.org.

Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition Finalists and Prize Winners 2006

Doug Auld, Hoboken, N.J.
Robert Bauer, Providence, R.I .
Brett Bigbee, New York*
Brian Bishop, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Chris Campbell, Honolulu
Susanna Coffey, New York
Nuno de Campos, Brooklyn, N.Y.*
Steve DeFrank, New York
Marc Dennis, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Marita Dingus, Auburn, Wash.
Armando Dominguez, Miami
Bryan Drury, Salt Lake City
Jenny Dubnau, Jackson Heights, N.Y.*
Lucy Fradkin, Long Island City, N.Y.
Kathleen Gilje, New York
Justin Hayward, Bountiful, Utah*
Jared Joslin, Chicago
Jenny Kanzler, Baltimore, Md.
Amber Kappes, Odessa, Texas
Laura Karetzky, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Kris Kuksi, Hays, Kan.
Nathaniel Lang, Lawrenceville, Ga.
William Lawrance, Chicago
David Lenz, Shorewood, Wis.*
Nina Levy, Brooklyn, N.Y.
John Manion, Randolph, Mass.

Sam Messer, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Tina Mion, Winslow, Ariz.
Jenny Morgan, Denver
Tina (Rita) Newberry, Philadelphia
Jennifer Oldis Kryczka, Westchester, Ill.
Paul Oxborough, St. Louis Park, Minn.
Sara Pedigo, Amherst, Mass.
Catherine Prescott, Mechanicsburg, Pa.
Demi Raven, Seattle
James Seward, Kent, Ohio
Carle Shi, New York
Burton Silverman, New York
Zak Smith, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Kimanne Smith, Wayne, N.J.
Sarah Sohn, La Verne, Calif.
Sharon Sprung, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Ginny Stanford, Sebastopol, Calif.
Costa Vavagiakis, Long Island City, N.Y.
Yuqi Wang, Brooklyn, N.Y.*
Richard Weaver, Charlottesville, Va.
Kent Williams, Los Angeles
Will Wilson, San Francisco
Alan Caomin Xie, Atlanta*
John Younger, Ivy, Va.
Brenda Zlamany, Brooklyn, N.Y.

*Denotes the artists whose work was selected for the seven top prizes.

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