National Portrait Gallery Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006

Fact Sheet

About the Portrait Competition

This competition is made possible by the generosity of Virginia Outwin Boochever, whose gift endowed this program. Mrs. Boochever volunteered as a docent at the National Portrait Gallery for nearly twenty years, introducing visitors of all ages to the Gallery’s permanent collections, including the Hall of Presidents, now called America’s Presidents, and special exhibitions. In 2002 she made a generous gift to the Gallery for the creation of a triennial portrait competition and related programs.

Call for entries

In 2005 a call for entries was opened to all professional artists age 18 and over, living and working in the United States.

Each artist was invited to enter one work, which had to be: original; a painting or sculpture; a portrait of anyone whom the artist knew (entries could be of a friend, relative, stranger or a self-portrait); finally, the portrait was to be completed after January 1, 2004.

Artists were encouraged to rethink the meaning of portraiture and explore new ways to portray an individual.

More than 4,000 entries were submitted, representing each state in the country.

Selection process

Most of the entries were submitted online. The jurors met in November 2005 to select the semifinalists. Those pieces were then shipped to the Portrait Gallery’s storage facility. In March the jurors will choose 50 to 60 finalists whose work will be on view July 1, when the National Portrait Gallery opens to the public in its gloriously refurbished home.
The winner will be announced at the invitation only, Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition Awards Dinner on June 23.

**Prizes**
First Prize: $25,000 and commission to portray a remarkable living American for the National Portrait Gallery’s permanent collection
Second Prize: $5,000
Third Prize: $3,000
Up to four commended works: $1,000 each

**Jurors**
Marc Pachter, director, National Portrait Gallery
Carolyn Carr, deputy director and chief curator, National Portrait Gallery
Trevor Fairbrother, independent scholar and curator, Boston, Mass.
Brandon Fortune, associate curator of painting and sculpture, National Portrait Gallery
Thelma Golden, director, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York City
Sidney Goodman, artist, Philadelphia
Katy Siegel, associate professor, Hunter College, CUNY, and contributing editor, *Artforum*

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