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## Press Release

### **ARTIST AGATA WOJCIESZKIEWICZ SELECTED FOR MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ART COMPETITION**

Agata Wojcieszkiwicz has been selected from almost 2,000 artists from across Europe and the UK to have their work shown in the 2018 Columbia Threadneedle Prize: Figurative Art Today.

The Columbia Threadneedle Prize is Europe's leading open competition for figurative and representational art and, at £20,000 is one of the most valuable art prizes in the United Kingdom. The winner is also awarded their own solo exhibition in the Threadneedle Space at Mall Galleries (valued at £10,000).

The 2018 winner will be announced on 30 January 2018. Visitors to the London exhibition will also decide the Visitors' Choice Award, worth an additional £10,000. Vote for Agata Wojcieszkiwicz for the Visitors' Choice Award when you visit the exhibition at Mall Galleries between 31 January and 17 February 2018.

Agata was one of 96 artists who had their work selected from over 4,000 entries viewed by the panel of selectors:

Jennifer McRae, Portrait Artist

Pippa Stockdale, Managing Director, Fine Art Society

Helen Pheby, Senior Curator, Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Lewis McNaught (Selection Panel Chair), Director of Mall Galleries.

The Columbia Threadneedle Prize is supported by leading global asset manager Columbia Threadneedle Investments. Columbia Threadneedle has funded the Prize since its inception, demonstrating the firm's long-term commitment to supporting the arts.

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

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# MALL GALLERIES

## Notes to Editors

Established in 2008, the number of entries for The Columbia Threadneedle Prize (formerly The Threadneedle Prize) continues to increase as the Prize gains momentum. The Columbia Threadneedle Prize encourages debate about the growing relevance of figurative and representational art by hosting visitor events throughout the three-week exhibition in London.

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

### **About Mall Galleries**

Mall Galleries is a major contemporary gallery space in the heart of Central London, and is a national focal point for contemporary figurative art. This year's Columbia Threadneedle Prize takes place directly following a major refurbishment of the Galleries' principal exhibition space, lending new authority to the Prize and the work of exhibiting artists. For over 40 years Mall Galleries has played a crucial role in diversifying the practice of figurative art, exploring its boundaries while inspiring and educating audiences with new exhibitions and interpretations of the contemporary world. See [www.mallgalleries.org.uk](http://www.mallgalleries.org.uk)

### **Columbia Threadneedle Foundation**

Columbia Threadneedle Foundation is committed to investing in the community through partnerships that create positive social impact. We focus on charities that use education, art and sport to engender lasting social change. Common threads we look for in our programmes and charity partners include the ability to build skills and confidence, challenge perspectives and broaden horizons. We believe that a vibrant arts sector brings a wide range of social, cultural and economic benefits. For more than 10 years, Columbia Threadneedle has been a major supporter of the arts in the UK through partnerships that span visual arts, art as therapy and art-based education programmes for diverse groups and communities from London and around the UK.

### **About Columbia Threadneedle Investments**

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is a leading global asset management group that provides a broad range of actively managed investment strategies and solutions for individual, institutional and corporate clients around the world. With more than 2,000 people including over 450 investment professionals based in North America, Europe and Asia, we manage £320.2 billion of assets across developed and emerging market equities, fixed income, asset allocation solutions and alternatives. Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global asset management group of Ameriprise Financial, Inc., a leading US-based financial services provider. As part of Ameriprise, we are supported by a large and well-capitalised diversified financial services firm. See

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