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## Female artists top Threadneedle prize shortlist

Six of the seven artworks which have been shortlisted for this year's prestigious Threadneedle Prize are by women, it has been revealed.

Georgina Amos, Sarah R Key and Nadine Mahoney are among the nominees for the £25,000 prize.

The strong female field may not come as a surprise to seasoned art lovers, as a woman has won every year since the prize launched in 2008.

Howard Dyke is the only male nominated this year for his work, White Burka.

Henrietta Simson, Laura Smith and Amy Stephens complete the shortlist.

The Threadneedle Prize is for paintings and sculptures that promote representational art - a term given to works that depict objects recognisable to the viewer.

Judges look in particular for artists who challenge the "language and assumptions" of the discipline.

The winner has already been chosen and will be announced on 5 October.

A second prize of £10,000 is given to the artist whose work proves most popular with visitors to the exhibition.

For the first time, all 52 pieces on display at the Threadneedle show will be eligible for the public vote.

But no one on the shortlist goes home empty handed, as all six runners-up will receive £1,000 each.

The works are openly submitted and this year more than 4,000 pieces were entered - more than double the amount previously received.

Last year Patricia Cain won the prize for her pastel piece, Building the Riverside Museum, while husband and wife duo Fionnuala Boyd and Les Evans walked away with the visitor's choice award.

The Threadneedle exhibition runs from 22 September to 8 October at the Mall Galleries in central London.

The public vote closes on 30 September.



Nadine Mahoney features on the shortlist for her work Anon Series (4)

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### Shortlisted artists

- Georgina Amos - Open Lid
- Howard Dyke - White Burka
- Sarah R Key - Everything in its Right Place
- Nadine Mahoney - Anon Series (4)
- Henrietta Simson - Bad Government (After Lorenzetti)
- Laura Smith - Knife
- Amy Stephens - Birch in Space, 2010

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