

PRESS RELEASE: ARTICULATION PRIZE ENGLAND 2016



Left and right: students speaking at regional heats in Birmingham and London. Centre: ARTiculation 2016 finalists with adjudicator Hannah Rothschild at Clare College, University of Cambridge

ARTiculation 2016 Winner and 10 year Anniversary Announced

The winner of the ARTiculation Prize 2016 was announced at Clare College, University of Cambridge on Friday 4 March by Hannah Rothschild, writer, filmmaker and Chair of the Trustees of the National Gallery. Christian Edwards from The Skinner's School, Kent was awarded first place.

ARTiculation is a national and international initiative which seeks to engage students, regardless of background and experience from both state and maintained and independent schools, with art to develop their confidence and ability to express their opinions, thoughts and ideas. In 2016 we are pleased to be holding ARTiculation Ireland, ARTiculation Scotland and, in partnership with the British Council, ARTiculation Italy.

ARTiculation is supported by eminent academics, artists, curators and gallery directors who adjudicate the competition. Previous adjudicators include Sir Antony Gormley, Jon Snow, Edmund de Waal and Dr. Penelope Curtis. Antony Gormley commented, 'ARTiculation is changing the future of British art criticism for the best.'

The Roche Court Educational Trust's nationally acclaimed public speaking competition this year saw over 1,000 students in England giving ARTiculation presentations to students, teachers and local communities. Regional heats and quarter-finals took place from January to March at Leeds City Art Gallery (Leeds), Saatchi Gallery, Whitechapel Gallery, British Museum and the National Gallery (London), Spike Island (Bristol), Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge), Quarterhouse (Folkestone), the Ikon (Birmingham), the Whitworth (Manchester), Ashmolean (Oxford) and New Art Centre (Wiltshire).

Christian Edwards, who gave a presentation on William Blake's 1793 engraving 'I want! I want!', commented that 'ARTiculation was a hugely enriching experience both academically and in terms of speaking and presenting; the range of skills this competition helped me develop was immense.' Second and third places were awarded to students from schools in Bristol and Manchester,

In 2016 ARTiculation will be marking its tenth anniversary with an event in London where ARTiculation alumni, adjudicators, partners and sponsors will be invited to celebrate the achievements of the young people who have gone on to gain top university places and are at the start of their careers.

Since its inception ten years ago, ARTiculation has offered opportunities for young people to visit galleries and universities making use of the rich resources available in their local areas. The initiative is recognised by universities and schools for developing young people's analytical and communication skills.

ARTiculation supports the national Arts Award initiative for both Silver and Gold (gaining up to 35 UCAS points), the Duke of Edinburgh Award, UCAS personal statements, and has been noted by teachers adding accreditation to A-level practical and written work. Participating students have gone on to have their work published in art magazines and to speak at professional conferences.

ARTiculation is supported by an extensive programme of outreach workshops which target non-selective, state maintained schools across England.

A teacher from a school in Manchester who took part in the 2016 Manchester regional heat commented, 'ARTiculation has raised the profile of Fine Art within the school. Everyone appreciates, now, the depth of analysis undertaken and the reasoned personal responses given by the students. It has proved that art is an academic subject.'

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Notes to the Editors

ARTiculation Prize

The ARTiculation Prize is an annual event designed to promote the appreciation and discussion of art. The competition seeks to engage sixth form students, regardless of background or experience, with art and to develop their confidence and ability to express their opinions, thoughts and conclusions. Each student is invited to deliver a ten minute presentation to an interested audience about a work of art, artefact or architecture of their choice. Adjudicators are asked to assess each presentation as a whole, looking at content, structure and delivery.

The prize began in 2006 at the New Art Centre, Roche Court, as a tribute to the art historian Kenneth Clark. The ARTiculation Prize encourages creative inquiry through discovering different ways of looking at and thinking about art. Participating schools have identified ARTiculation as developing pupils' verbal and communication skills, raising self-confidence and aspirations as well as introducing the possibilities offered by higher education.

150 students from the state maintained and independent sector attended the Conference and Finals at the University of Cambridge where Professor Richard Clay, Digital Humanities at Newcastle University gave a lecture 'Art: from coins to the Internet (via spraycans) in 30 minutes'. The winner and the runners up receive cash prizes and all finalists are awarded annual membership to the Art Fund and books sponsored by Laurence King Publishing.

For further information about ARTiculation please visit the website www.rochecourteducationaltrust.co.uk or contact Josepha Sanna: josepha@sculpture.uk.com or 01980 862802

The Roche Court Educational Trust and the New Art Centre

The Roche Court Educational Trust is a resource based at the New Art Centre Sculpture Park and Gallery for schools, colleges, universities, adults and specialist groups from across the country. Experienced staff work closely with all visitors and provide guided and interactive tours and workshops. Planned events and artist led projects are a key aspect of the educational programme and are designed to encourage and promote the enjoyment of looking at artworks and learning through discussion, observation and expression.

The New Art Centre, Roche Court, is a sculpture park and gallery set in the spectacular Wiltshire landscape. The New Art Centre specialises in late 20th-century and contemporary art and includes works by Barbara Hepworth, Anthony Caro, Antony Gormley and Richard Long. The award winning Gallery and the contemporary domestic exhibition spaces, the Artists House and Courtyard Pavilion, were designed by the architect Stephen Marshall. The New Art Centre Sculpture Park and Gallery is open every day and admission is free.

For further information about RCET please visit the website rochecourteducationaltrust.co.uk or contact Emma Kerr, Head of Education: emma@sculpture.uk.com or go to.