



The AIB Prize Launched

4th December 2000

AIB Group Chief Executive Designate, Michael Buckley, today launched an AIB sponsored annual award for artists who either live in or were born in Ireland. The aim of the award, to be called "The AIB Prize", is to identify Irish visual artists of outstanding promise and assist them in launching their careers.

The total value of "The AIB Prize" will be IR£15,000. As well as receiving a cash award the winner will have an exhibition and catalogue funded by AIB. The winner can also avail of a residency at The Ballinglen Arts Foundation in Mayo. Three runners up will each receive an award of IR£1,000.

Speaking at the launch in AIB Bankcentre, Mr Buckley said:-

"AIB is proud to have been committed to celebrating Irish Art for over 20 years through the foundation and development of the AIB Art collection. "The AIB Prize" helps us develop that commitment. While the AIB Art collection celebrates the work of great Irish artists of the past and present, The AIB Prize will allow us to play our part in supporting the great Irish artists of the future at the beginning of their careers.

There is a huge wealth of talent throughout the 32 counties so I know that there will be no shortage of nominations for this annual award. We are lucky to have the benefit of a top class and very committed panel of adjudicators in Dr. Frances Ruane, Art Adviser, AIB Group; Aidan Dunne, Art Critic; Antonia Payne, Freelance Curator and Margo Dolan, Visual Art Director."

A distinctive feature of "The AIB Prize" will be that nominations will not be made by commercial galleries but by publicly funded venues whose primary mission includes the presentation of the visual arts through exhibition. The nominating venue must hold an exhibition of the winning artist's work within eighteen months of the winner being announced.