



AIB announces winner of 'The AIB Prize' for 2003

3rd April 2003

At a reception in The RHA Gallagher Gallery, Dublin this evening, AIB's Group Chief Executive, Michael Buckley, announced that Dara McGrath is the winner of this year's AIB Prize – An Annual Award for Artists of Promise.

McGrath, who was born in Dublin in 1975, was nominated by Draíocht Arts Centre, Dublin. He is a graduate in photography from Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Co. Dublin. His photographs document the new road infrastructure in Ireland and how it is transforming the landscape.

McGrath wins a prize of €20,000 to cover the publication of a catalogue, a contribution towards the costs of an exhibition in Draíocht Arts Centre and an award to the artist to facilitate production of new work for the exhibition.

The three runners-up, who each received an award of €1,500 were:

Amanda Coogan - Éigse Carlow Arts Festival

Aileen Kelly - Context Gallery, Derry

Margaret O'Brien - West Cork Arts Centre, Skibbereen

In his address, Michael Buckley said, "AIB is proud to have been committed to Irish art over the last 20 years. Now, with The AIB Prize, we hope to further develop that commitment by helping to launch the careers of important Irish artists of the future, who are at the beginning of their creative lives".

A particular feature of this award is that nominations come from publicly funded galleries all over the country, that have identified emerging talent. Each gallery agrees to hold a major exhibition of their nominee's work if their artist wins the award.

Mr. Buckley commented that a prestigious exhibition and an accompanying publication would undoubtedly provide a springboard for artists at a critical point in their careers and would be useful in promoting their work both here and abroad. The intention is that the AIB Prize will contribute to qualitative aspects of the show and catalogue, but will also provide financial assistance to the artist which will enable the production of a substantial body of new work.

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