



**The AIB Prize - An annual award for artists of promise
20th February 2003**

AIB Group today announced the four short listed winners for "The AIB Prize", an annual award for artists of promise. Now in its third year, "The AIB Prize" was launched in December 2000 by Michael Buckley, Group Chief Executive. The aim of the award is to identify Irish visual artists of outstanding promise and to assist them in launching their careers.

This year's short-listed artists and their nominating galleries are:

Amanda Coogan - Eigse Carlow Arts Festival
Aileen Kelly - Context Gallery, Derry
Dara McGrath - Draíocht Arts Centre, Dublin
Margaret O'Brien - West Cork Arts Centre

The adjudicators commented on the very high standard of applications, which reflected the depth of emerging talent throughout Ireland. The panel of adjudicators are Aidan Dunne, Art Critic; Desmond MacAvock, Art Critic; Antonia Payne, Freelance Curator and Dr. Frances Ruane, AIB Art Adviser. The winner of "The AIB Prize" will receive €20,000 for the purpose of creating new work for an exhibition and for the publication of an accompanying catalogue. The winner can also avail of a residency at the Ballinglen Arts Foundation in Mayo. The three runners up will each receive an award of €1,500.

The overall winner will be announced at a reception on 3 April in the Ashford Gallery, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin where a selection of work from the finalists will be shown. The nominating venue will hold an exhibition of the winning artist's work, with an accompanying publication, in 2004.

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