



AIB announces winner of the 'AIB Prize' for 2004
10th March 2004

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

Coogan, born in Dublin in 1971, was nominated by Limerick City Gallery of Art. Coogan is a performance artist whose work centres around the live event. She also makes photographs and videos, either taken from the performance or produced in and around it. Born hearing to deaf parents, she grew up using sign language, which has had a big impact on her work. Her art communicates primarily through the body, which she uses to explore a wide range of contemporary themes.

Amanda wins a prize of €20,000 to cover the publication of a catalogue, a contribution towards the costs of an exhibition in Limerick City Gallery of Art 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, and the galleries who nominated them are:

Stephen Brandes: Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin

Christine Mackey: Model Arts and Niland Gallery, Sligo

Mark McGreevy: Draíocht, Dublin

In his address, Michael Buckley said, "Over the past twenty years it has given AIB enormous satisfaction to be able to support artists by purchasing their work for the bank's art collection. However, four years ago we decided to take this commitment one step further with the The AIB Prize, helping to launch the careers of important Irish artists of the future who are at the beginning of their creative lives".

Mr. Buckley, commenting on the work of the winner, Amanda Coogan, said, "her performances are ambitious, physically challenging and riveting to watch."

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