



## **AIB announces winner of The AIB Prize for 2005**

**21st April 2005**

At a reception in The RHA Gallagher Gallery, Dublin, this evening, AIB's Head of Strategic HR, Mike Lewis, announced that Paul Doran is the winner of this year's AIB Prize – An Annual Award for Artists of Promise.

Doran, born in Gorey, Co. Wexford in 1972, was nominated by the Sligo Art Gallery. He graduated in Fine Art Painting, from the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, in 2001. His work is the result of an intense commitment and a passion for the act of laying paint on canvas.

Paul wins a prize of €20,000 to cover the publication of a catalogue, a contribution towards the costs of an exhibition in Sligo Art Gallery in 2006 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:

Orla Barry - Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin

Julie Merriman - West Cork Arts Centre

Tom Molloy - Limerick City Gallery of Art

In his address, Mike Lewis said, "Over the past twenty four years it has given AIB enormous satisfaction to be able to support artists by purchasing their work for the bank's art collection. However, five 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. Lewis, commenting on the work of the winner, Paul Doran said, "His work marks him out as one of the more original and distinct voices practising in the contemporary visual arts in Ireland."

**Ends**

For further information please contact:

Mary Quilty

MQ Communications

Tel: 01-4539207 / Mob: 087-2488280

Trevor McEvoy

Group Press Officer

AIB Group

Bankcentre

Ballsbridge

Dublin 4  
Tel: +353-1-641 4651  
Maureen Porteous  
Art Administrator  
AIB Group  
Bankcentre  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4  
Tel: +353-1-641 4659