



Turner prize 2024

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Claudette Johnson's art for Cotton Capital nominated for Turner prize

Guardian-commissioned portrait of abolitionist Sarah Parker Remond among works competing for £25,000 prize



Claudette Johnson's with her portrait of the African American Sarah Parker Remond, which was part of her New York show Drawn Out. Photograph: David Levene/The Guardian

Claudette Johnson has been nominated for this year's Turner prize for her work, which includes a portrait of the African-American slavery abolitionist Sarah Parker Remond commissioned as part of the Guardian's award-winning Cotton Capital series.

Pio Abad, Johnson, Jasleen Kaur and Delaine Le Bas will compete for the £25,000 prize, while the nominated artists will each collect £10,000 as the prize returns to Tate Britain for the first time in six years.

Colonialism, migration, nationalism and identity politics are the key themes running through the 40th edition of the Turner prize, which the jury described as showing contemporary British art "is appealing and dynamic as ever".

Alex Farquharson, the director of Tate Britain and chair of the Turner prize jury, said this year's nominees were exploring ideas of identity and would be exhibited from 25 September, before the jury's final choice.

He said: "This year's shortlisted artists can be broadly characterised as exploring questions of identity, autobiography, community and the self in relation to memory, or history or myth."



Claudette Johnson's exhibition Presence at the Courtauld Gallery in 2023. Photograph: David Bebbler/Courtesy the artist and Hollybush Gardens, London, © the Courtauld.

The Turner prize, regarded as one of the art world's most prestigious awards, is presented to an artist born or working in Britain for an outstanding exhibition or presentation of their work over the previous year.

Abad was nominated for his solo exhibition To Those Sitting in Darkness at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, with the jury commenting on the "precision and elegance" of his work, which takes its title from a Mark Twain poem of a similar name that critiques American imperialism the Philippines, his homeland.

The show also contains references to the Benin Bronzes, after Abad discovered that the punitive expedition of 1897 - during which British troops sacked Benin City and looted thousands of objects, of which about 900 are in the British Museum' - set off from his home, Woolwich, in south London.

HOLLYBUSH GARDENS



📍 Jasleen Kaur's *Alter Altar* explores ideas of belonging. Photograph: Keith Hunter/Courtesy of Tramway and Glasgow Life

Johnson was nominated for her solo *Presence* exhibition at the Courtald Gallery, which the Guardian said “brilliantly questions depictions of non-white figures by such revered painters as Gauguin and Picasso”. She was also recognised for her New York show, *Drawn Out*, at Ortuzar Projects, which included her Redmond portrait.

She is the latest black female artist who emerged in the Black Art Movement of the 1980s to be recognised by the Turner prize, following in the footsteps of Lubaina Himid (2017 winner) and Veronica Ryan (2022), while Ingrid Pollard and Barbara Walker have both been nominated.

The jury said Johnson had been nominated because of the “renewal of her practice”, after she stopped making work in the 1990s, and the fact she was still “taking risks and trying new forms of practice”.

Kaur's work in the exhibition *Alter Altar*, which was shown at Tramway in Glasgow, features sculptures and soundscapes, including a red Ford Escort covered in a huge doily, which references her father's first car and ideas of migration and belonging in Britain.



📍 Delaine Le Bas's *A New Life is Beginning in Vienna*, 2023. Photograph: Iris Ranzinger/Courtesy of Secession, Vienna.

Kaur grew up in Glasgow's Sikh community in Pollokshields, and the jury said the exhibition was a breakout show that was “generous, celebratory, moving and alive to timely issues, speaking imaginatively to how we might live together in a world increasingly marked by nationalism, division and social control”.

Le Bas's work, shown at the Vienna Secession exhibition, was described as a “response to social and political turmoil” and includes immersive performance art with theatrical costumes and sculptures.

Farquharson said there was a chance the show may travel to Bradford during its City of Culture year, following the precedent set by Coventry, which hosted the awards in 2021, although that was still “to be confirmed”.