



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17th May 2017

### **A. Richard Allen is announced as winner of the Moira Gemmill Illustrator of the Year prize at the 2017 V&A Illustration Awards**

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Supported by the Enid Linder Foundation and the Moira Gemmill Memorial Fund

*V&A Illustration Awards 2017 display*

17th May – 20th August 2017

NAL Library Landing, Room 85

Admission Free

A. Richard Allen has been announced as the winner of the Moira Gemmill Illustrator of the Year prize, and winner of the Best Editorial Illustration, for *Trump Wave*, a satirical homage to Katsushika Hokusai's *Great Wave off Kanagawa*, in a ceremony hosted by V&A Director Tristram Hunt at the V&A Museum. Based in Bournemouth, Allen studied at Central Saint Martin's College and practices as an illustrator and painter with clients including *The Sunday Telegraph*, *The Guardian* and *The New Yorker*. The judging panel praised his use of Hokusai in a contemporary context "to invoke echoes of the past to reinforce the reality that history matters".

#### **Winners of the 4 categories of the 2017 V&A Illustration Awards:**

1. Best Editorial Illustration and overall winner: A. Richard Allen for 'Trump Wave', in *The Sunday Telegraph Money*
2. Best Illustrated Book: JARVIS for *Alan's Big Scary Teeth* (London: Walker Books, 2016)
3. Best Book Cover Design: Aino-Maija Metsola *Virginia Woolf Series* (London: Vintage Classics, 2016)

4. 2017 Student Illustrator of the Year: Beatriz Lostalé Seijo 'The Odyssey' (Anglia Ruskin University – Cambridge School of Art, MA Book Illustration)

Student Runner-Up: Tom Spooner 'Towards an Infinite Place' (Royal College of Art, Visual Communications)

The prize money for each of the four awards categories is £3,000, and the Moira Gemmill Illustrator of the Year Prize is worth an additional £5,000. The student runner-up prize is worth £2000. All the winning artworks will be displayed on the landing outside the National Art Library from 17th May – 20th August 2017.

Speaking after the ceremony, V&A Director Tristram Hunt said: *"The V&A's Illustration Awards is rooted in the V&A's founding purpose, to celebrate and promote the highest standards of creativity. This prize shines a light on our illustration industry and supports the emerging talent of tomorrow through the Student Illustrator of the year prize. The extraordinary response to our competition is testament to the buoyancy of the creative talent we have here in the UK, so I'm delighted that the V&A will display all the winning artworks in the Museum for everyone to enjoy."*

This year's shortlist was drawn from over 800 submissions. The competition has been running since 1972. Previous winners of the Illustration Awards include Sir Quentin Blake, Ralph Steadman, Posy Simmonds, Sara Fanelli, and Yasmeen Ismail.

– ENDS –

#### **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Moira Gemmill Illustrator of the Year Prize is named in memory of the late Moira Gemmill, the V&A's former Director of Design.
2. The judging panel for the published categories comprises Jane Scherbaum, former V&A Head of Design, Loyd Grossman, broadcaster, gastronome and art historian, and bestselling author Beryl Kingston. For the 2017 Student Illustrator of the Year Award, the judging panel is comprised of John O'Reilly, Editor of Varoom magazine and 2016 V&A Illustration Awards winner, Jason Brooks.
3. A selection of press images are available to download free of charge from [pressimages.vam.ac.uk](http://pressimages.vam.ac.uk)

4. For further PRESS information about the exhibition, contact the Press Office on 020 7942 2502 or [press.office@vam.ac.uk](mailto:press.office@vam.ac.uk) (not for publication).
  
5. Richard studied Fine Art (Painting) at Central Saint Martin's College in London before taking an MA in Communication Design (Illustration) from the same college. Following stints as a college administrator, an animator and a storyboard artist, Richard became a freelance illustrator, working for numerous high profile editorial, publishing and advertising clients. His clients include *The Telegraph*, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Daily Mail*, *The New Statesman*, *Esquire*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Random House* and *the Folio Society*. His children's book, *'Apes-a-Go-Go!'* was published by Harper Collins. Richard's illustration work has been honoured with two gold awards from the UK Association of Illustrators, a gold award from the Society of Illustrators LA, a silver medal from the Society of Illustrators NY, recognition from 3x3, and Communication Arts. He has also been nominated previously for the V&A Award in the books category.