



PRESS RELEASE

V&A Illustration Awards 2020 Winner Announcement

vam.ac.uk/illustrationawards

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

Ann Kiernan has been awarded the Moira Gemmill Illustrator of the Year and the Illustrated Journalism Award 2020. Kiernan's winning illustration was commissioned by Open Democracy to accompany an article by Wael Eskandar entitled 'How Twitter is gagging Arabic users and acting as morality police'. Simple brushstrokes and a spray of red symbolise a Twitter update that has broken free from a pencil drawn cage only to be shot down. The fluidity and drive of her brushstrokes create a sense of urgency that impressed the judges who praised Kiernan's inventive use of the well-known corporate logo.

Winner of Book Cover Award: Eva Eland for *When Sadness Comes to Call* (Andersen Press). A child looks up with curiosity and compassion at an unexpected guest, whilst sadness towers above, encompassing and extending beyond the boundaries of the book cover. Eva Eland's debut picture book is a poignant yet uplifting look at dealing with a universally felt emotion. An important subject to explore with young readers, the judges admired the soft, non-threatening portrayal of sadness.

Winner of Book Illustration Award: Clive Hicks-Jenkins for *Hansel and Gretel: A Nightmare in Eight Scenes*, written by Simon Armitage, Art Direction by Laurence Beck (Design for Today). The second collaboration between artist and poet, this illustrated book of poems began as a puppet opera in which Hansel and Gretel are reimagined as modern-day refugees. The judges admired the illustrations for enriching, rather than merely representing the written word.

Winner of the Student Illustrator of the Year Award: Sally Dunne for *Home in Kakuma Refugee Camp* (Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge School of Art). Dunne's pastel drawings aim to convey the vibrancy of the Kakuma refugee camp, while highlighting the difficult reality of displacement as many await resettlement or to return home. The judges admired Dunne's colour palette and use of shadow, observing that her technique serves to accentuate the contrast between community and the uncertainty of fate.

Student Illustrator of the Year: Runner Up: Vyara Boyadjieva for *The Wave* (Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge School of Art). Boyadjieva's jubilant illustration is part of a wordless picture book entitled *Induli*, meaning *hill* in Xhosa, a South African language. *The Wave's* infectious joy and exhilarating sense of energy enthralled the judges who admired Boyadjieva's lively use of colour and form.

Highly Commended Student: Kate Winter for *Lascaux* (Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge School of Art). The judges admired Winter's picture book for highlighting our intrinsic need to learn through creativity and to tell stories through imagery.

Highly Commended Student: Laura Winstone for *The Catmolean Museum* (Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge School of Art). Winstone's picture book celebrates world culture and craftsmanship. A joy to look at, the judges described her textured collages as playful witty and fun.

Highly Commended Student: Ruo Hsin Wu for *Starring Night* (Royal College of Art). Stars are imagined as small holes in the sky that giants gaze through to observe the world. The judges admired the beautiful execution of a unique and thought-provoking concept.

The judges of the V&A Illustration Awards 2020

Book Cover, Book Illustration and Illustrated Journalism Award:

- Bonnie Greer, playwright, novelist, critic and broadcaster
- Ren Renwick, CEO of Association of Illustrators (AOI)
- Dr Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A

Student Illustrator of the Year 2020:

- Sheri Gee, Art Director at The Folio Society
- Yehrin Tong, illustrator, past winner of the V&A Illustration Awards

Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A said: “The V&A Illustration Awards celebrate outstanding creativity by working artists, who use the fierce power of illustration to illuminate all the complexity of contemporary human experience. The winning entries speak perfectly to the V&A’s founding mission to support artists, embed design in everyday life, and showcase imaginative brilliance.”

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 £2,000. This year’s shortlist was drawn from over 800 entries. Previous winners of the Illustration Awards include Nora Krug, John Vernon Lord, Sir Quentin Blake, Ralph Steadman, Posy Simmonds, Sara Fanelli, and Yasmeen Ismail.

The competition has been running since 1972.

– 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. A selection of press images are available to download free of charge from pressimages.vam.ac.uk
3. For further PRESS information about the exhibition, contact the Press Office on 020 7942 2502 or press.office@vam.ac.uk (not for publication).