

Press release: For immediate release

January 2019



Webb-Ellis
For The First Baby Born in Space (still)



Richard Whitby
The Lost Ones (still)

Jerwood/FVU Awards 2019: Going, Gone.

Webb-Ellis and Richard Whitby

Jerwood Space, London - 3 April to 2 June 2019
Free entry

JerwoodFVUawards.com #JerwoodFVUawards

This April, Jerwood Arts and Film and Video Umbrella premiere two powerful new moving-image works from artists Webb-Ellis and Richard Whitby commissioned through the Jerwood/FVU Awards. Launching with an exhibition at Jerwood Space, London, this edition's theme *Going, Gone* takes Britain's declared exit from the European Union as a starting point for reflection on other collective experiences of transition and loss. The exhibition is free to attend.

These exceptional works offer a snapshot of today's world through experimental and provocative artist filmmaking, confronting the "weaponised bureaucracy" in place at the UK Home Office, and reflecting on the power of the young in an increasingly unpredictable political epoch.

Jerwood Arts and Film and Video Umbrella commissioned the new works, each with a budget of £20,000 and a 10-month production period.

***For The First Baby Born in Space* by Webb-Ellis**

For The First Baby Born in Space is a twin-screen projection by artist duo Webb-Ellis. A despatch from the immediate present that is directly addressed to an indeterminate point in the future, it gives voice to some of the emotions and experiences of a generation of young people who have had little say in the dramatic political events unfolding around them or in the mounting ecological threats that the planet is facing. Featuring a group of teenagers from the artists' home base in Whitby, Yorkshire and elsewhere, and filmed over the course of the extraordinary long, hot summer of 2018, the piece highlights some of the golden moments of childhood: fairground hangouts, late-night raves, conversations under the stars. But it also evokes the darkening mood of a time that is rapidly coming to an end. Noting how the teenagers' coming of age coincides with the phenomenon of a country in chaos and in flux, the piece captures a wider feeling of turbulence and upheaval, rippling through fidgety bodies and anxious minds, while reminding us also that youth is so often a source and a mainstay of hope.

***The Lost Ones* by Richard Whitby**

In Richard Whitby's video *The Lost Ones*, a disparate group of individuals are waiting to have their residency status assessed. Stuck in bureaucratic limbo, and asked to attend an interview at a place called the Premium Service Centre, they find themselves interrogated by a disembodied voice, whose peremptory manner and frequently malicious tone makes for an uncomfortable, hostile environment. Alluding to the dystopian visions of Orwell and Beckett, and the surrealist animations of Svankmajer, but adding a contemporary edge in the aftermath of the Windrush scandal and the extended dramas of Brexit, the piece has a black-comic energy that mixes acerbic, absurdist humour with moments of genuine pathos. Co-scripted by television writer and satirist Alistair Beaton and beautifully improvised by a number of more or less in-the-dark performers, *The Lost Ones* confronts us with an inescapably timely and symbolic image of people so trapped in a tortuous, nightmarish process that they start to lose their grip on reality.

"This year's Jerwood/FVU Awardees combine visual flair and energy with insightful comment and trenchant polemic. The two new commissions foreground voices that are not always heard - the young, so often left out of big political debates; and everyday citizens at the sharp end of an increasingly insidious and judgmental bureaucracy. In the midst of edgy and radical times, it is fitting we are supporting works with a radical edge." **Steven Bode, Director of FVU**

"We are delighted to have selected such exceptional artists for this edition. The works they are creating are urgent, free and fearless, and we look forward to sharing them with people in the galleries at Jerwood Space very soon." **Lilli Geissendorfer, Director of Jerwood Arts**

The artists were selected from over 145 applications by Elizabeth Price, artist; Peter Taylor, Festival Director at Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival; Steven Bode, Director at Film and Video Umbrella; and Sarah Williams, Head of Visual Arts at Jerwood Arts.

Over the past five editions the Jerwood/FVU Awards have provided a significant platform for the selected artists, with all recipients gaining further critical recognition following their exhibitions at Jerwood Space. 2018 recipient Maeve Brennan has subsequently exhibited work at the Douglas Hyde

Gallery, Dublin and The Palestinian Museum, Birzeit. Fellow 2018 recipient Imran Perretta's commission has been acquired by the Arts Council Collection and he is currently working on a major commission for Chisenhale Gallery, Spike Island, and The Whitworth, University of Manchester. 2017 recipient Lawrence Lek's commission went on to show at the Venice Biennale in 2017, and he has been showing at major institutions around the world for the last two years. He was shortlisted for the prestigious Jarman Award and the Arts Foundation Experimental Architecture Award in 2018. Fellow 2017 recipient Patrick Hough is exhibiting his commission as part of Artists' Film International until April 2019, touring major international institutions since 2017.

Jerwood/FVU Awards 2020: Call for Entries

The call for entries for the Jerwood/FVU Awards 2020 will be open from 11 February 2019 until 2pm, 8 April 2019 with the theme and title *Hindsight*. The 2020 edition of the Jerwood/FVU Awards offers an increased budget of £25,000 for each of the two new commissions, enabling artists to fully realise their ambitions. This will be used to create their proposed artworks over a 10-month period. Each recipient also receives full production support from FVU, as well as ongoing guidance from both Jerwood Arts and FVU. The new works premiere in an exhibition at Jerwood Space, London. Please refer to JerwoodFVUawards.com for further details over the coming months.

- Ends -

For further information on the Jerwood/FVU Awards, please contact:

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LISTINGS INFORMATION

Exhibition: ***Jerwood/FVU Awards 2019: Going, Gone***

Dates: **3 April to 2 June 2019**

Address: Jerwood Space, 171 Union Street, London SE1 0LN

Opening Times: Mon-Sat from 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-5pm Open late on the last Friday of every month

Admission: Free

Nearest Tube: Southwark, London Bridge or Borough

Website: www.jerwoodfvuawards.com | www.jerwoodarts.org | www.fvu.co.uk |

Social Media: #JerwoodFVUawards @JerwoodArts @FilmVidUmbrella

There will be a series of events to accompany the exhibition. Events are free but must be booked in advance; for more information please visit jerwoodfvuawards.com

Notes to Editors:

Project credit

The Jerwood/FVU Awards are a collaboration between Jerwood Arts and Film and Video Umbrella. FVU is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Press images

Please click [here](#)

Artist biographies

Webb-Ellis - Caitlin and Andrew Webb-Ellis (b. 1988, UK; b. 1981, Canada) live and work across Britain and Europe. Webb-Ellis have been working together since their time at Arts University at Bournemouth, both graduating with a BA in Photography in 2012. Recent presentations include Whitstable Biennale 2018; *Inheritors*, Siobhan Davies Dance, London, 2018; *Video Jam*, Manchester, 2017; *Slant, For the Unsettling*, Jerwood Space, London, 2017; *Aesthetica Art Prize 2017*, York Art Gallery, 2017; Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, Hawick, 2017; *Visions in the Nunnery*, Bow Arts, London, 2016; Estuary Festival, Tilbury Cruise Terminal, 2016. Webb-Ellis are currently presenting 'We chose the earth' project funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation at Whitstable Biennale till June 2020.

Richard Whitby (b. 1984, Liverpool) lives and works in London. Whitby is a video and performance artist, often working with collaborators producing music, costumes and objects. Whitby studied at Wimbledon College of Art, the Slade and took part in the LUX Associate Artists Programme 2012-2013. He also has a PhD in Humanities and Cultural Studies from the London Consortium. His book 'The Jump Room' was published by The Old Waterworks in 2018. In 2015 he completed residencies with CCA Glasgow and Seoul Museum of Art. In 2012 he produced a solo show with the Royal Standard, Liverpool and has since worked with Focal Point Gallery (2013) and the Bluecoat (2014). Richard is a member of the National Executive Committee for Artists' Union England.

Jerwood/FVU Awards so far:

2018: *Unintended Consequences*

Commissions: Maeve Brennan and Imran Perretta

2017: *Neither One Thing or Another*

Commissions: Patrick Hough and Lawrence Lek

2016: *Borrowed Time*

Commissions: Karen Kramer and Alice May Williams

2014-15: *What Will They See of Me?*

Commissions: Lucy Clout and Marianna Simnett

Shortlist: Kate Cooper and Anne Haaning

2012-13: *Tomorrow Never Knows*

Commissions: Ed Atkins and Naheed Raza

Shortlist: Emma Hart and Corin Sworn

Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents artists' moving-image works that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced nearly 200 different artists' projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions. fvu.co.uk

Jerwood Arts is the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. We enable transformative opportunities for individuals across art forms, supporting imaginative awards, fellowships, programmes, commissions and collaborations. We present new work and bring people from across the arts together in the galleries at Jerwood Space, London, and across the UK. jerwoodarts.org

