24 September 2014, London: Tina Jenkins has been announced winner of the 2014 Threadneedle Prize, one of the most prestigious art prizes in the UK awarded annually for figurative and representational art. Tina receives £20,000 plus a solo exhibition for a wider body of her work in 2015. Tina’s winning work is included in The Threadneedle Prize exhibition at Mall Galleries, London SW1.

Campbell Fleming, CEO of Threadneedle Investments, presented the award last night at a special ceremony at Mall Galleries. Louisa Buck, art critic and contemporary art correspondent for The Art Newspaper, compèred the evening. On receiving the award Tina added “I’m in shock and thrilled. Winning this important prize is a dream, to be able to put these funds into my practise and knowing I have the exhibition to work towards in 2015 is so exciting.”

Tina Jenkins work Bed Head, a mixed medium work, 170 cm x 170 cm, is an example of her playful approach to historical constructs and limitations. The imagery consists of layers of the human form within a repetitive pattern. Jenkins describes the process as a “hysterical act”, hinting that the process mobilised the action and immortalises on the canvas.

Jenkins is no stranger to winning prizes. She was runner up in the Marmite Painting Prize in 2010, was awarded the Owen Ridley Prize at the University of Reading for a MFA project and is the recipient of a bursary from Reading University to research her PhD in 2014. Her work encapsulates the focus of The Threadneedle Prize exhibition on Figurative Art Today.

The works in the exhibition were selected from over 3,600 entries by a panel comprising Nancy Durrant, Kevin Francis Gray, Whitney Hintz and John Martin. Tina’s work will be exhibited alongside 58 other paintings, sculptures, drawings and prints selected for the 2014 edition of the Prize, open between 24 September and 11 October 2014.

Selection Panel member Whitney Hintz said; “There was a wide range of submissions but this year’s Threadneedle Prize winner stood out immediately. Tina Jenkin’s Bed Head was one of the first works we saw on judging day and, after viewing over 3,600 submissions, it was the first work that we returned to. Her bold approach to the human form and her clever use of material impressed the judges. I look forward to seeing more of Tina’s work in the future.”

“We’re already looking forward to exhibiting a larger number of Tina’s paintings in a solo exhibition of her work at Mall Galleries, next year,” adds Lewis McNaught, Director of Mall Galleries. “The striking nature of her imagery delivers an extraordinary visual impact and will make a strong impression on visitors to her solo exhibition” (30 March to 11 April 2015).

Alison Jefferis, Head of Corporate Communications and a Director of The Threadneedle Foundation: “Threadneedle is proud to support the Threadneedle Prize, and the work of exciting artists like Tina and all those who contributed to this year’s exhibition. The Threadneedle Prize entered a new era this year, with the addition of the Curated Space. The Prize began as a collaboration between Threadneedle and Mall Galleries in 2008, and it continues to grow ever stronger. We look forward to Tina’s solo show at Mall Galleries, an important initiative that reflects our commitment to supporting a vibrant arts sector in the UK.”

The winning announcement marks the opening of both The Threadneedle Prize exhibition and the new ‘Curated Space’, where Guest curator Sacha Craddock has selected work by eight leading UK and international artists, all of whom use figurative art as their starting point. Together they will enhance and complete this comprehensive annual exhibition of Figurative Art Today.

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About the winner:

Tina Jenkins (b. 1966)

Bed Head, Media: Gloss and acrylic on plastic sheeting, 170 mm x 170 mm
Tina was runner up in the Marmite Painting prize in 2010 and was featured in Two and a Half Dimensions curated by Marcus Harvey at Pangolin in 2011. She had a solo show at studio 1:1 in 2012. She was awarded the Owen Ridley Prize at the University of Reading for an outstanding MFA project and is the recipient of a bursary from Reading University to research her PhD in 2014.

About the Threadneedle Prize:

The Threadneedle Prize is the country’s leading competition for figurative and representational painting and sculpture. With a total value of £30,000, it is one of the most valuable art prizes in the United Kingdom. This year the winning artist will win a cash prize of £20,000 plus their own one-week exhibition at Mall Galleries in the succeeding year (value £10,000). Visitors to the exhibition are invited to vote for the Visitors’ Choice Award, a further valuable prize worth £10,000 to the winning artist. The Threadneedle Prize was established in 2008 with the continued support of Threadneedle Investments, a leading international investment manager, demonstrating its long-term commitment to supporting the arts.

Through open submission from artists working in the UK and Europe, the Prize offers established and emerging artists a high profile opportunity to showcase their work at a leading venue in Central London. Previous winners and shortlisted artists include Nina Murdoch, now represented by Marlborough Fine Art, and Rose Wylie, who is currently on show at Tate Britain. All works are for sale, offering collectors and members of the public the opportunity to invest in works from up and coming artists.

With many high profile art prizes tending towards conceptual and abstract works, The Threadneedle Prize deliberately sets out to raise the profile of figurative art within the wider context of contemporary visual art practices and provides an important platform for some of the most exciting artists working today.

Damian Chandler, Brunswick Arts
Tel: 020 7936 1273 Email: Threadneedleprize@brunswickgroup.com

Liberty Rowley, Mall Galleries
Tel: 020 7930 6844 Email: threadneedleprize@mallgalleries.com

Ella Tekdag, Threadneedle Investments
Tel: 020 7464 5082
Ella.Tekdag@threadneedle.com

Nicolas Duperrier
Tel: 020 7464 5940
Nicolas.Duperrier@threadneedle.com

Notes to Editors:

Mall Galleries
Mall Galleries is a major contemporary gallery space in the heart of Central London, championing the work of new and established artists. The Galleries play host to many of the leading open art competitions, where new talent is discovered and existing reputations are enhanced. Mall Galleries also host an annual programme of exhibitions by member societies specialising in portrait, marine, wildlife, watercolour, pastel and oil painting.

For over 40 years Mall Galleries has played a crucial role in keeping the practice of figurative art alive, while looking forward by promoting, inspiring and educating audiences with new interpretations of the contemporary world.

Mall Galleries is operated by the Federation of British Artists, a major visual arts charity established in 1961. The charity has recently completed a significant project to convert an area of 19th century vaulted space into a dedicated Learning Centre, extending the charity’s educational resource.

Threadneedle Investments
Threadneedle is a leading international investment manager with a strong track record of outperformance across asset classes. We actively manage £92.8 billion (as at 30 June 2014) of assets, investing on behalf of individuals, pension funds, insurers and corporations. We are the 4th largest UK retail fund manager1 and the 10th largest UK fund manager1 by AUM. In Europe we rank in the top 502. Established in 1994 in London, Threadneedle has a presence in 16 countries. Threadneedle
Press Release

is owned by Ameriprise Financial (NYSE: AMP), a leading US diversified financial services company with US$810 billion in assets under management and administration. Threadneedle is pleased to support The Threadneedle Prize and the Mall Galleries. Our investment philosophy is based on the belief that constructive debate promotes deeper thinking and fresh ideas, and can identify value where others may overlook it. The Threadneedle Prize does the same.

1 UK IMA ranking, June 2014, see www.investmentfunds.org.uk
2 Europe ranking, Morningstar Rankings ex MM, ex FoF and ex Master/Feeder, May 2014
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The Threadneedle Foundation
The Threadneedle Foundation aims to grow Threadneedle’s commitment to investing in the community, building partnerships that create positive social impact across a range of sectors, with a particular focus on using education and art to engender lasting social change. Our partnerships include the Threadneedle Prize and a three-year commitment to The Art Room, a charity that supports 5-16 year-olds who are experiencing emotional and behavioural difficulties. The Art Room offers art as therapy to increase children’s self-esteem, self-confidence and independence.

2014 Selection Panel

Nancy Durrant is Arts Commissioning Editor and an Art Critic at The Times, where she has been for 11 years. She has appeared as a commentator on Channel 4 News and documentaries and has presented several films for the BBC’s The Culture Show. She has served on the judging panel of various art prizes, including the New Sensations Prize at the Saatchi Gallery, the Converse/Dazed Emerging Artist Award in association with the Whitechapel Gallery and the Zoo Art Fair Prize. She spends her life in museums, art galleries, theatres, cinemas and buses.

Kevin Francis Gray is a sculptor who has generated bodies of work which address the complex relationship between abstraction and figuration. His work has been included in exhibitions at the Royal Academy, London, UK; Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, UK; Museum of Contemporary Art of the Val de-Marne, Paris, France; Nieuw Dakota, Amsterdam; Palazzo Arti Napoli, Naples, Italy; Musee d’art Moderne, Saint-Etienne, France; ARTIUM, Centro-Museo Vasco de Arte Contemporáneo, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain; Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel; and Art Space, New York, USA.

Whitney Hintz is an independent advisor and curator of the Hiscox Collection. The Hiscox Collection comprises approximately 600 works on display across the company’s 30 offices in the UK, Europe and USA. In addition to overseeing the Hiscox Collection and advising private clients, Whitney is a board member of the Crossrail Arts Programme and Sculpture in the City, an annual outdoor public sculpture exhibition located within the City’s Square Mile. She is also a consultant for both the Kenneth Armitage Foundation and the Eduardo Paolozzi Foundation. Whitney was previously Associate Director at Frith Street Gallery.

John Martin is Director of John Martin Gallery, with two gallery spaces in Central London. He is also Founder and Director of Art Dubai and Adviser for International Art Projects. In 2007 he founded the Middle East’s first contemporary art fair, Art Dubai, for which he was Fair Director for four years until 2010. During this period he initiated the Global Art Forum, the Abraaj Capital Art Prize and Contemporabia, a cultural itinerary aimed at international museum groups, collectors and press. He has been involved in various advisory committees include The Gulf Cultural Council (Doha), Start Charity and the Shubbak Festival, for which he remains a trustee. He has continued to advise on art fairs, art events as well as commercial and non-commercial projects in the UK and the Middle East including the Farnborough Wind Tunnels and EdenLab.