

THE WOODMANSTERNE ART CONSERVATION AWARDS 2023

The judging of this year's awards took place in London on 19th July 2023. The panel of judges comprised Rupert Featherstone (former Director of the Hamilton Kerr Institute), Janet Tamblin (former Head of Conservation at Plymouth City Museum & Galleries), Nicola Christie MVO (Senior Paintings Conservator at The Royal Collection) and Professor Aviva Burnstock (Professor of Conservation at The Courtauld Institute of Art). They were joined by Paul Woodmansterne (Chairman) and Seth Woodmansterne (Managing Director) of Woodmansterne Publications Ltd, the publishing company sponsoring the Awards.

The successful applicants, receiving a total of £38,255 were:

- Foundling Museum, London. Award £11,650
A Choir of Orphan Girls (date unknown) by Thérèse Schwartz (1851 - 1918)
- Graves Gallery, Sheffield. Award £4,585
Judith with the Head of Holofernes (c. 1610-1620) after Carlo Saraceni (1579-1620)
- Cowper & Newton Museum, Olney, Northamptonshire. Award £2,650
Portrait of William Hayley (c.1770) by James Millar (c.1735 to 1805)
- Victoria Art Gallery, Bath. Award £4,812.50
Henry VIII (date unknown) after Holbein
- Brodie Castle, Forres, Scotland. Award £1,460
Anne, wife of James Brodie (c. 1795 - 1800) by the British School (1785-1805)
- Newstead Abbey, Ravenshead, Nottinghamshire. Award £1,500
Newstead Abbey from the West (c.1760) attributed to the Rev. Richard Byron (1724 – 1811)
- Leeds Museums and Galleries, Leeds. Award £3,747.50
Child with Rattle (1611) attributed to Paul van Somer I (1576 – 1621)
- Perth Art Gallery, Perth. Award. £6,300
Prometheus (date unknown) by Luca Giordano (1634-1705)
- Moyse's Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. Award. £1,550
Anne Clopton d'Ewes (1626) artist unknown

In addition, the commitment to provide two annual Art Conservation Scholarships of £5,000 each was continued, to i) The Hamilton Kerr Institute, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and (ii) The Courtauld Institute of Art, London.

The Woodmansterne Art Conservation Awards were set up in 1995 and have been held biennially ever since. They remain the only grants available for the conservation and preservation of paintings on public display in the UK. The awards honour the publishing company's on-going commitment to the visual cultural heritage of this country. Founded in 1953, Woodmansterne Publications Ltd started as a publisher of 35mm colour slides of cathedrals, historical houses, galleries and museums for the world's lecturers, teachers and tourists. Today, a third-generation family business, it is renowned as the leading publisher of greeting cards in the UK, working with institutions and artists such as The National Trust, Country Life, Quentin Blake and Emma Bridgewater.