

KATHRYN MAPLE – THE JOHN MOORES PAINTING PRIZE

Named after its founder and notable philanthropist Sir John Moores, the John Moores Painting Prize began in 1957. The internationally renowned biennial prize, organised in partnership with the John Moores Painting Prize Trust, remains true to its founding principle: to support artists and to bring to Liverpool the best contemporary painting from across the UK.

Moores was an esteemed businessman and councillor, well known and liked, whose legacy for the city of Liverpool was substantial. He had great interest in the arts and was himself an amateur painter. Desiring to encourage artists outside of London, he founded the John Moores Painting Prize. The first event was held at the Walker Art Gallery. It was so well received that it became a biennial event and still takes place there today.

The award presents a rich history of post-war painting in Britain. The first exhibition was held only six years after the Walker Art Gallery re-opened following the Second World War.

The winning painting each year is added to the Walker Art Gallery's permanent collection. Past winning submissions include *Peter Getting Out of Nick's Pool* by David Hockney (1967), *Black Painting, Red, Brown and Olive* by Patrick Heron (1959), *Blotter* by Peter Doig (1993) and *PV Windows and Floorboards* by Rose Wylie (2014). Sir Peter Blake, winner of the competition's Junior Prize in 1961, is Patron of the prize.



Kathryn Maple, *The Common*, 2019, acrylic on canvas, 220 x 240 cm

Maple's painting *The Common* (2019) was awarded the prize in 2020 and is now part of the Walker Art Gallery's permanent collection, taking its place alongside paintings by artists who have since become household names.

Judges described Maple's work as an 'immensely rich and resonant painting' and noted that the 'painting just stepped away from anything else that we'd seen'... 'the more you look at it, the more it rewards you'.

Selected by a panel, the winning work and short-listed pieces are being shown at the Walker Art Gallery as part of the Liverpool Biennial festival of visual art. An exhibition of Maple's selected works, *Under a Hot Sun*, will run until 30th April 2023.

We're delighted to be showing *Kathryn Maple, A Year of Drawings* - comprising 365 oil pastel drawings, one made each day in 2022 - concurrently with her show in Liverpool. A number of works in the show relate specifically to paintings in the Walker Art Gallery collection, including *27/2/22*, *22/9/22*, *21/08/22*.

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