



The Ireland-U.S. Council

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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***The Ireland-U.S. Council's 2019 Award For Outstanding Portraiture
To Be Presented To Belfast Artist Gareth Reid
Prudential Financial's Sponsorship Supports This Important Arts Program***

May 20, 2019, New York, NY: Belfast artist Gareth Reid is the winner of this year's *Award for Outstanding Portraiture*, sponsored by the *Ireland-U.S. Council* in conjunction with the *Irish Arts Review* and in association with the *Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA)*. The Award is presented in Ireland to an artist whose submission is judged to be of outstanding merit. The Award is an important part of the Council's program to support the arts and arts education in Ireland.

The winning painting is a portrait entitled "*Girl in a Red Room*" and was chosen from all exhibits at the *Royal Hibernian Academy's 189th Annual Exhibition*, opening in Dublin today. At the prize-giving ceremony at the RHA yesterday, Mr. Reid was presented with the *Ireland-U.S. Council's* €5,000 award bursary. A formal presentation of the Awards Ceremony citation will be made by Council Ireland Chapter President Dr. Michael Somers at the Council's *Midsummer Gala Dinner* on Friday, June 28, 2019 at a dinner in Dublin Castle.

Born in Belfast, Gareth Reid studied at the *University of Ulster*, the *Glasgow School of Art* and the *Florence Academy of Art* in Italy. He now lives and works in Glasgow. He has shown on five occasions at the *BP Portrait Award* in the National Portrait Gallery in London. In 2007, he won the BP Travel Award. Having travelled to Finland, he gave talks on his work in the *National Gallery of Scotland*, Edinburgh and the *National Portrait Gallery*, London which has also published his work.

In 2017, Reid was selected as the Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the year which resulted in a commission of the BBC TV presenter Graham Norton, now hanging in the Portrait Collection of the *National Gallery of Ireland*. Previous commission include: Retiral portraits of Sir George Mathewson and Stephen Hester for RBS, Lord Gill and Billy Connolly. His work is held in the collections of RBS, *Ralph Lauren*, the *Old Bailey* and the *Arts Council of Northern Ireland*.

NEW YORK

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Gareth has been a tutor of portraiture and life drawing at Con Ed at *Glasgow School of Art*, and currently at the *Centre for Lifelong Learning, Strathclyde University*. He also conducts drawing classes in Glasgow. Several solo exhibitions of his work in the past 20 years have been staged in Dublin, Belfast and Glasgow.

In remarks with the announcement of the winning portrait work, Council President Mr. Brian W. Stack noted "This annual competition and prize, now in its 14th year, has been an important career marker where many of today's successful Irish portrait painters received their initial support and encouragement. It is a tradition that we are delighted to sustain with the *Irish Arts Review* on the prestigious platform of the *Royal Hibernian Academy's Annual Exhibition*".

The Award program is undertaken with generous financial sponsorship from Council-member firm, *Prudential Financial*, a U.S.-based life insurance company which is not affiliated in any manner with *Prudential plc*, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom. The *Irish Arts Review*, the quarterly publication devoted to Irish culture, art and design throughout the ages, manages the judging process and is chaired by Brigid Mulcahy, publisher of the *Irish Arts Review*. The *Royal Hibernian Academy* is an all-island institution that is celebrating its 189th Anniversary. A programme is being made around this year's RHA Annual Exhibition. It will be aired next month on Ireland's national TV station, RTE.

As part of the sponsorship program associated with the Award, every Council member in the United States and in Ireland receives a copy of Ireland's premier visual arts and heritage quarterly journal, 35 years in publication, the *Irish Arts Review*. Other benefits for Council members include a program of discounts available through the *Irish Arts Review* to many arts events in Ireland. Also included are calendars of upcoming arts activities throughout the year plus online information on prices of Irish art and results of auction sales.

The Ireland-U.S. Council was founded in 1962 by business leaders in the United States and in Ireland. It is the premier transatlantic business organization that encourages and promotes business between Ireland and America. Its founding was in preparation for the visit of President John F. Kennedy to Ireland in June, 1963, as a measure to build institutional form around a structure to improve business, economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

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The Winning Portrait

Girl in a Red Room



The Artist

Gareth Reid

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