

PRESS RELEASE

## Poplar pupil, aged 10, wins city-wide climate art prize

*Winners revealed on the Piccadilly Lights*

**London, 26 October 2023:** A 10 year-old pupil from Tower Hamlets has grabbed first prize ahead of nearly 2,000 young artists from 34 schools in this year's Young London Print Prize. The competition invited young Londoners between the ages of 9 and 11 to express their personal response to the climate crisis through the art of printmaking.

The winning entry by Afsana Miah from Lansbury Lawrence Primary School depicts a jellyfish drifting in the ocean. Entitled '*Alone, Darkness*', this stunning artwork was made using mono printing with lino blocks. Second prize went to Hanna Jelonkiewicz for a powerful artwork called *The Crashing World* and third prize to Jayden Rodriguez Kent for a clever, playful print titled *Beetle Bug*.



*Alone, Darkness*



*The Crashing World*



*Beetle Bug*

### Young people find their voice through climate art

According to the latest research, 7 out of 10 of young adults in Britain feel 'worried' about climate change. But only 9% believe they have a great deal of influence in decisions about it.<sup>1</sup> The Young London Print Prize was launched to help address this. It aims to inspire the next generation of artists and reveal how young people feel about the climate crisis. Pupils learn how to make prints and prepare their own climate-themed submission to the Prize. All the artworks in the competition are

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<sup>1</sup> Opinion research from the [Woodland Trust](#)

judged by a team of 16 – 17 year old student curators from across London. No adult makes any of the decisions.

The winning prints were revealed on the full 780m<sup>2</sup> screen of the Piccadilly Lights – an iconic landmark seen by 100 million people passing through Piccadilly Circus annually, and are now exhibited alongside some of Britain's best loved contemporary artists, including Cornelia Parker and Bridget Riley, at Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair from 26 - 29 October.

**London's Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues**, said:

“Art has the power to engage with people of all ages and motivate us to do more to tackle the climate emergency. It's fantastic to recognise so many talented young people and take inspiration from their artistic impressions of climate change. Let this be further encouragement to do everything in our power to tackle the climate crisis and build a fairer, greener city for all Londoners.”

**Matt Bell, Chair of Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair and Co-Founder of the Young London Print Prize**, added: “If you want to shape social values and inspire young people to make different choices, art and creativity are completely fundamental.”

**Cllr Adel Khaireh, Cabinet Member for Equality, Culture and Communities at the Royal Borough of Greenwich**, where the Prize is hosted, commented: “Congratulations to the brilliant winners of the Young London Print Prize and the young curators who took on the tough task of judging the entries. Born in Woolwich, this competition gives young creatives from all backgrounds an opportunity to exhibit their work alongside international artists and feel empowered to reach their full potential. Young people are our future and their unique interpretations of climate change serve as inspiration to us all to come together and protect the world we live in.”

**Maria Adebowale-Schwarte, CEO of Foundation for Future London**, said: “Ensuring young people's voices about climate change are heard is crucial. And creativity goes hand in hand with this. This is vital to transforming the world into a better place for all, particularly in East London where higher demographics of Black and ethnically diverse people and communities are affected by pollution, lack of green space and other climate issues. We are thrilled with the results!”

The Young London Print Prize is run by Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair, with support from the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster City Council, Royal Borough of Greenwich, Landsec, Westfield East Bank Creative Futures Fund, powered by Westfield Stratford City, Foundation for Future London, Landsec, Anthesis, Lefranc Bourgeois, Boodle Hatfield and Forster Communications. For more information, visit <https://woolwichprintfair.com/young-london-print-prize>

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**Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair** is the largest art fair of its kind in Europe today. Our mission is to build a global platform championing contemporary print, together with creatives, collectors, visitors and the next generation of art lovers. [www.woolwichprintfair.com](http://www.woolwichprintfair.com)