

Ian Cumberland Announced as Winner at 2010 Davy Portrait Awards for his Self Portrait

Davy, Ireland's leading provider of stockbroking, wealth management and financial advisory services, last night awarded Northern Ireland-based artist Ian Cumberland the 2010 Davy Portrait Award, worth £10,000 at a ceremony in Belfast for his captivating oil on board self portrait.

The awards, in association with Arts & Business, were open to artists working in traditional and non-traditional media across Ireland. The judging panel comprised Rosie Broadley, Associate Curator of Contemporary Collections at the National Portrait Gallery in London and Brenda McParland, a renowned International Curator and Arts Management Professional in Contemporary Visual Arts.

Cumberland describes the winning portrait as 'A celebration of flaws using the marks and colour of the paint to accurately portray the flesh and bring out all the imperfections that everyone has. From a distance the painting is very realistic, but up close its quite uneven'. Ian studied 'Fine and Applied Arts' at University of Ulster and has exhibited at numerous solo and group exhibitions across Ireland and the UK, including Royal Ulster Academy exhibitions and the National Portrait Gallery, London in 2009 as part of the BP Portrait Awards which then toured to the Dean Gallery of the National Galleries of Scotland.

Ian's 'Self Portrait' can be viewed alongside 28 other shortlisted paintings selected from over 300 entries at the 2010 Davy Portrait Awards exhibition which takes place at the Naughton Gallery in Belfast from Friday 26th February 2010, moving to the Farmleigh Gallery, Dublin in April, and then on to Fota House, Cork in July.

Tony Garry, Chief Executive of Davy commented: "Following the huge success of the inaugural Davy Portrait Awards last year, Davy continues to champion innovation and excellence in contemporary portrait painting in Ireland. We are delighted to have received such a strong response again this year and are very pleased to be able to offer a show-case of creative flair and artistic talent. The quality of the submissions is a clear indication of the significance of portrait painting within contemporary visual culture."

Judge Rosie Broadley of the National Portrait Gallery commented, "Selecting a group of portraits for the Davy Portrait Award exhibition was an exciting and daunting prospect; such was the range and quality of work submitted. Intimate drawings vied for attention with canvases vast and small, each representing the unique relationship that arises between an artist and sitter

when a portrait is made. The Davy Portrait Award is a wonderful opportunity for new and established artists from across Ireland to exhibit together and was a privilege to be involved in the process.”

Mary Trainor, Director, Arts & Business Northern Ireland commented: “Arts and Business are delighted to be supporting The Davy Portrait Awards which champion innovation and excellence in contemporary portraiture in Ireland. The vision and true spirit of partnership shown by Davy in making these Awards happen is itself innovative and to be commended.”

For further information and full exhibition details: www.davyportraitawards.com



First Prize, Davy Portrait Awards 2010:
Ian Cumberland, 'Self Portrait', 2009
Oil on Board, 100cm x 70cm

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Notes to editor: JUDGING PANEL

The Davy Portrait Awards 2010 judging panel have been selected for their unique understanding and exposure to contemporary Irish art. Together they have experienced all perspectives of portraiture: that of the sitter, the viewer and the artist.

ROSIE BROADLEY

Associate Curator of Contemporary Collections at the National Portrait Gallery in London

BRENDA MCPARTLAND

Brenda McParland, a renowned International Curator and Arts Management Professional in Contemporary Visual Arts

ABOUT DAVY

Davy is Ireland's leading provider of stockbroking, wealth management and financial advisory services. Davy offers a broad range of services to private clients, small businesses, corporations and institutional investors, and organises its activities around four interrelated business areas – Capital Markets, Corporate Finance, Private Clients and Research. Employing over 400 people, Davy's head office is in Dublin and it has three regional offices in Belfast, Cork and Galway. For further information: www.davy.ie

ABOUT ARTS & BUSINESS

A&B aspires to be the world's most successful & widespread creative network. The organisation helps business people support the arts & the arts inspire business people, because good business & great art together create a richer society. For further information: www.artsandbusiness.org.uk