



## THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS ANNOUNCES THE WOLLASTON AWARD WINNER

The prestigious £25,000 Charles Wollaston Award has been won by Isaac Julien for his film *WESTERN UNION: Small Boats* in the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition. Established in 1978 and presented to the 'most distinguished work' in the exhibition, it is one of the most significant art prizes awarded in the country.

The filmmaker and installation artist Isaac Julien was born in the East end of London in 1960 to St Lucian parents. He studied at Central Saint Martins School of Art, first coming to prominence in 1989 for his drama-documentary *Looking for Langston*. He was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2001. Over the last two decades Julien has concentrated on making work for museums and galleries, and is renowned not only for his visually rich films, but also for their innovative installation, creating an immersive experience for the viewer.

The five screen film, *WESTERN UNION: Small Boats* is the concluding part of his Expedition Trilogy. A contemporary take on Visconti's film *The Leopard*, (both are set in Sicily), *WESTERN UNION: Small Boats* intercuts scenes of opulence with transcontinental migration. The baroque architecture and the sea and landscape are beautifully realised and seductive to the eye, whilst the narrative highlights the complexities and failures of modern civilization and world politics. Created in 2007, this marks the first time that the work is installed on five screens.

The judges for this year's award were Richard Wilson RA, Hannah Firth and David Harsent.

Previous winners include: David Nash RA (2016), Rose Wylie RA (2015), Wolfgang Tillmans RA (2014), El Anatsui Hon RA (2013), Anselm Kiefer Hon RA (2012), Alison Wilding RA (2011) and Yinka Shonibare RA (2010).

Over £50,000 is offered in awards and prizes for every category of work in the Summer Exhibition. Further awards and prizes for this year's exhibition will be announced in due course.

For public information, please print 020 7300 8000 or [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)  
Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD

For further press information, please contact Johanna Bennett on 020 7300 5615 or email [press.office@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:press.office@royalacademy.org.uk) 08.06.17