

Jack O'Brien wins the 2023 Camden Art Centre Emerging Artist Prize at Frieze.

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October 11, 2023



Jack O'Brien, installation view in Ginny on Frederick's booth at Frieze London, 2023. Photo by Choreo. Courtesy the artist and Ginny on Frederick, London.

Jack O'Brien, a British artist based in London, has won this year's Camden Art Centre Emerging Artist Prize at Frieze London. As the recipient of this prestigious award, the young artist will benefit from the guidance of Camden Art Centre's curatorial team and will present a solo exhibition at Camden Art Centre in 2024.

For Frieze London, O'Brien crafted a new sculptural installation presented by Ginny on Frederick. At the exhibit's heart is a standalone, 19th-century-inspired horse-racing carriage enveloped by an industrial polythene "shell." The piece is accompanied by wall-mounted plastic sculptures created with common household items and industrial metals, designed to examine our patterns of consumption—intimately and historically.

This year, O'Brien's presentation with Ginny on Frederick was chosen from among 34 galleries from 18 countries featured in Frieze's "Focus" section—a segment of the fair devoted to championing both emerging artists and galleries. Since Frieze London's 2018 edition, the Camden Art Centre has presented the Emerging Artist Prize to one of these emerging artists to help cultivate the beginning of their artistic careers.

Director of Camden Art Centre Martin Clark commented on the announcement, remarking, “We can’t wait to start working with Jack on his show at Camden Art Centre next year. It feels like a really important and timely moment for him. It’s only the second time we’ve made the award to a London-based artist and gallery, and it feels like such an energized time in London at the moment, with so many brilliant new galleries opening and so many exciting young artists living and working here.”

The 2023 prize was selected by a panel comprised of Clark alongside Gina Buenfeld Murley, a curator at Camden Art Centre, and Nicole Yip, the chief curator at Nottingham Contemporary.

Maxwell Rabb is Artsy’s Staff Writer.