

press release

**THE CITIBANK PRIVATE BANK PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNER**

For immediate release

The Citibank Private Bank is delighted to announce the winner of this year's Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize: **Richard Billingham**

At a packed award ceremony held at the Royal College of Art this evening (Wednesday January 22nd), Lord Snowdon brought to an end months of speculation in the photography and art world and opened the envelope bearing the winner's name. He then presented the prize – a cheque for £10,000 – as well as a specially commissioned glass trophy.

The event was attended by all five finalists: Richard Billingham, Mat Collishaw, Catherine Yass, Philip-Lorca diCorcia and Uta Barth – the last two having flown over specially from the US. In the audience were numerous leading figures from the photography and art world, along with many other well-known figures.

Following the presentation, The Citibank Private Bank hosted a celebratory dinner for the photographers at One Ninety Queensgate.

Speaking after the announcement of the winner, Ian Dunlop, Head of The Citibank Private Bank's Art Advisory Service in London, said: 'Our congratulations go not just Richard Billingham but to all the other finalists as well. One need only look at their images which we have on display here at the RCA to appreciate the outstanding quality and originality of all their work. The judges, who reached their decision only a few hours ago, found themselves with an almost impossible choice to make, but were able in the end to reach a clear majority.'

He continued: 'To see so many people here this evening from the art world and the media certainly makes me feel that all our effort over the past 12 months has been worthwhile. I'm already looking forward to seeing who gets nominated for the next prize!'

The prize – believed to be the biggest in the world – has received considerable publicity and has been widely welcomed as highlighting Britain's leading role in the resurgence of contemporary photography as an art form.

The work of each of the finalists will be on view for the next week at the RCA's Henry Moore Gallery (January 23rd to 30th; 10am to 6pm; admission free).

See accompanying Background Information for further details.

Agent: London Projects

Work for which she was nominated: 'Ground Series', exhibited at London Projects in June 1996

For further information please contact:

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Telephone 0171 304 2481 Facsimile 0171 304 2486

Agent: Anthony Ray Gallery

Work for which he was nominated: 'Ray's A Laugh', published by Scala, spring 1996

Mat Collishaw

Background: Born 1965, Nottingham, Lives in London

Agent: Thomas Dane Limited

Work for which he was nominated: 'Catching Fairies', 'Enchanted Wardrobe' and 'Narcissus' - exhibited at the Camden Arts Centre 1995-6; 'Infectious Flowers' series

Philip-Lorca diCorcia

Background: Born Hartford, Connecticut, 1963. Resident in New York

Agent: The Photographers' Gallery, London

Work for which he was nominated: 'Hollywood' exhibition at The Photographers' Gallery, July 1996

Catherine Yass

Background: Born 1963 in London

Agent: Laure Guilford Gallery

THE CITIBANK PRIVATE BANK PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE

Background information

FINALISTS AND JUDGES

The five finalists were chosen from more than 100 nominated photographers and artists whose work had been exhibited or published in the UK over the period 1 October 1995 to 30 September 1996.

The finalists

Uta Barth

Background: German-born, resident in Los Angeles

Agent: London Projects

Work for which she was nominated: 'Ground Series', exhibited at London Projects in June 1996

Richard Billingham

Background: Born 1970, Birmingham

Agent: Anthony Reynolds Gallery

Work for which he was nominated: 'Ray's A Laugh', published by Scalo, spring 1996

Mat Collishaw

Background: Born 1966, Nottingham. Lives in London

Agent: Thomas Dane Limited

Work for which he was nominated: 'Catching Fairies', 'Enchanted Wardrobe' and 'Narcissus' - exhibited at the Camden Arts Centre 1995-6; 'Infectious Flowers' series

Philip-Lorca diCorcia

Background: Born Hartford, Connecticut, 1953. Resident in New York

Agent: The Photographers' Gallery, London

Work for which he was nominated: 'Hollywood' exhibition at The Photographers' Gallery, July 1996

Catherine Yass

Background: Born 1963 in London

Agent: Laure Genillard Gallery

Work for which she was nominated: work at various exhibitions, notably 'Stall' (images of Smithfield Meat Market) and 'Steel' (images of steelworks)

The judges

The panel of judges comprised six people who are all experts on contemporary photography and art. A different panel will sit each year. This year's members were:

Ian Dunlop (non-voting chairman) – Head of The Citibank Private Bank London Art Advisory Service

Richard Cork – Chief Art Critic, *The Times*

Maureen Paley – Director of Interim Art Gallery, London

Tessa Traeger – Award-winning photographer

Paul Wombell – Director of The Photographers' Gallery, London

Mark Haworth-Booth – Curator of Photographs, Victoria and Albert Museum

EXHIBITION

A week-long public exhibition of the work of all five finalists will be held in the Henry Moore Gallery at the RCA from January 23rd to 30th (opening hours 10am to 6pm including Saturday and Sunday; admission free).

CATALOGUE

A catalogue, focusing on the exhibited work and featuring essays by this year's judges, is available from the RCA bookshop, price £7.95.

THE CITIBANK PRIVATE BANK

The Citibank Private Bank is a division of Citibank, one of the world's largest international banks. The Citibank Private Bank exists to cater for high net worth individuals, whose sophisticated financial needs are often beyond the scope of most ordinary banks – generally individuals or families with investible assets of at least US\$3 million and often considerably more.

Operating in 36 countries and servicing more than 75,000 clients, The Citibank Private Bank offers 24-hour-a-day global banking coupled with a highly personalised service: each client has his or her own Relationship Manager, who acts as a conduit to an unparalleled range of financial products and services.

Among the services offered by the Private Bank is Art Advisory which, as the name suggests, offers specialist advice and assistance to clients who wish to build or maintain their art collections. It also provides a collection management service and works with the Private Bank on its Art Credit.

The Art Advisory Service has been instrumental in helping The Citibank Private Bank in London build up its own collection of contemporary photography, including over 60 works by over 20 photographers, young and old, from around the world.

For further information please contact:

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