

Ministry of Sports, Culture, Heritage and Youth

PRESS RELEASE

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Local artist through to next round of major art competition

The Minister for Culture, the Hon Steven Linares MP, is delighted to announce that the artwork submitted to the *BP Portrait Award 2015* by local artist Derek Duarte has qualified for the next round in the preselection phase of the competition.

The Portrait Award, now in its thirty-sixth year at the National Portrait Gallery is one of the most prestigious portrait painting competitions in the world. With a first prize of $\pm 30,000$, and a total prize fund of $\pm 61,000$, the Award is aimed at encouraging artists to focus upon and develop portraiture in their work.

There is a new entry procedure and a new judging process for the first time this year. Artists are now able to submit a digital image of their work for a first round of judging. All images are viewed by a panel of judges and the entrants who are successful in this round are then invited to deliver their work to a venue in London for the second round of judging and final exhibition selection. The exhibition will run at the National Portrait Gallery, London, from Thursday 18 June to Sunday 20 September 2015.

The Ministry of Culture is pleased to be supporting the artist by reimbursing the cost of transporting the work to the UK.

The Minister offers his heartiest congratulations to Derek and wishes him the best of luck for the next round.