

A NEW INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARD: THE CITIBANK PRIVATE BANK PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE

For immediate release

The Citibank Private Bank is launching a major new annual photographic prize. Open to anyone working in the photographic medium, the prize is the first of its kind – and with a cheque for £10,000 going to the winner, it is also believed to be the world's biggest.

The Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize will be presented to the winner at a ceremony held at London's Royal College of Art on January 22nd 1997. A public exhibition of the work of the five shortlisted finalists will take place at the RCA from January 23rd to 30th.

The new prize, which includes a specially commissioned trophy, will be awarded to the individual who is judged by a panel of six judges to have made the most significant contribution to the medium of photography in the period October 1st 1995 to September 30th 1996.

Nominations for the prize will be invited from over 80 experts in contemporary photography and art. The closing date for nominations is 1st October 1996, and the names of four shortlisted finalists will be announced at the beginning of November.

Nominations will also be welcomed from the public, who are invited to send them (no more than two choices) to the address on the next page.

There are no restrictions regarding age, sex or nationality. The only restrictions are that the candidate must be still living and must have exhibited or published (in print or electronic form) a body of work in the United Kingdom within the period in question.

The prize has been welcomed by the photographic community. Mark Haworth-Booth, Curator of Photographs at the V & A, and one of this year's judges, said: "I'm delighted to be involved with the prize in its first year. Photography has never been in a more volatile and, I think, creative state and this prize will help draw the attention of a wider audience to the exciting things that are going on."

The prize is unique in that it makes no distinction between photojournalists, other professional photographers or artists who use photographic images as an integral part of their work. Paul Wombell, Director of The Photographers' Gallery and another of this year's judges, said: 'For a long time photography has been regarded by many as somehow outside, or separate from, the realm of art. An award that recognises the importance of a body of work from *any* photographic field is long overdue.'

The prize has been instigated by David Richards, UK Market Head of The Citibank Private Bank, and Ian Dunlop, who heads the bank's Art Advisory Service in London. Commenting on the new prize, David said: "At The Citibank Private Bank we have found a growing interest in photography among art collectors – and yet photography as an art form has still not gained the recognition it deserves. By hosting this annual prize we hope to raise public awareness of photography and the fascinating ways in which it can shape our ideas and fuel our imaginations."

The prize is being supported by the Saturday Magazine of *The Times*, whose coverage of the event will include a special illustrated section on the work of the four finalists.

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For further information, or to submit nominations, please contact:

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For comment on The Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize, please contact:

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