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## Inaugural Jerwood Moving Image Awards - £30,000 Prize Winners Announced

[www.jerwoodmovingimage.org](http://www.jerwoodmovingimage.org)

The Jerwood Charitable Foundation has announced the three winners of the inaugural Jerwood Moving Image Awards. Sophie Clements, Johnny Kelly and the creative partnership of Rosie Pedlow and Joe King each received £10,000 in the first ever major award in the UK for artists working in digital moving image.

The three winning films reflect the astonishing range and outstanding quality of the work currently being produced in this discipline.

- Sophie Clements' *Evensong* was conceived as a piece of visual music, and in its delicate and sublime layering of sound and colour manages to fuse sensory experiences, and demonstrates the technical mastery of its maker.
- *Procrastination* by Johnny Kelly is a vivid and funny account of putting things off, a human experience that anyone can relate to, and whose humour is derived from the sparkling interplay between the droll script and the dazzling visuals.
- Rosie Pedlow and Joe King's work *Sea Change* comes from a very different filmmaking tradition, and is a beautiful portrait of a coastal community in a time of change.

Taken together, the films present a snapshot of the cutting edge of contemporary practice in this emerging artform, and will establish their creators as leaders in their field.

The Jerwood Moving Image Awards were established this year to support and promote the myriad disciplines that fall under the umbrella term 'digital moving image', and to provide a platform for debating the present state and future prospects of the artform.

Roanne Dods, Director of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation comments, "*The Jerwood Moving Image Awards mark the coming of age of a uniquely exciting creative discipline of almost limitless possibility. The three winning films wonderfully fulfil the potential of putting digital technology in the hands of artists, and will hopefully encourage audiences, artists and critics alike to engage more closely with this artform.*"

The panel of judges was led by Wayne McGregor of the Royal Ballet, who comments, "*The judges have been overwhelmed at every stage of this competition by the energy and imagination invested in each entry. The staggering diversity of practices that we've seen, from dance film and documentary to animation and video art, reveals a discipline that is vigorously creative and consistently challenging its own boundaries. Ultimately, however, artistic excellence was the only criteria that guided us, and the three winners admirably fulfil this requirement.*"

Along with the five other finalists, the three winners can be seen in the finalists' exhibition at the Jerwood Space until 20<sup>th</sup> March 2008. They are also available to view online at [www.jerwoodmovingimage.org.uk](http://www.jerwoodmovingimage.org.uk), where they can also be downloaded. Twenty-two other shortlisted films can also be streamed online at the Jerwood Moving Image Awards website.

The Jerwood Moving Image Awards received more than 350 entries this year, and demonstrate the Jerwood Charitable Foundation's commitment to endorsing new practices in contemporary art, offering funding and support for emerging artists working with new technologies.

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## **The Winners**

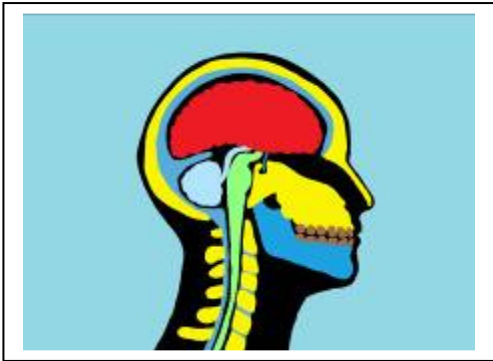
### ***Evensong* – Sophie Clements**

Sophie Clements is a visual artist working specifically in relation to sound and music. Graduating from the Royal College of Art in 2005, her work takes the form of film, installation and live performance, all unified by her aim to express the two languages of sound and visual as a singular voice. Her approach to making work is process-lead, often involving painstaking techniques that re-create by hand what might be possible at the touch of a button with digital techniques. This is not a reaction against our digital capabilities, but rather a relishing in unforeseen results, happy accidents and the physical connection the process gives her to her work. She has taken part in a number of shows including 'Traced Overhead' with the London Symphony Orchestra in London (2007), 'Video London' in Spain (2006) and 'City on a Roof' in Holland (2006), and has performed live with various musicians including Scanner, J.Peter Schwalm and Brian Eno.



*Evensong* is a piece of visual music; it is a song, sung by layers of landscape and the geometric light forms that emerge from them. All filmed for real, or 'in-camera', it explores the notion of physical reality in relation to time and memory: The light objects are not fake, but they are still unreal – an altered memory of an event that happened – a movement in time seen in its entirety, like the beauty of hindsight. Titled 'Evensong' not as a direct reference to its religious connotations, but rather a reflection of mood that the lights and landscape themselves suggest – the piece is somehow a melancholy celebration of dusk and stillness – an essence of something else – the 'planned' unforeseen, seeping out of the systematic process of filming. These objects are at once sound and light, real and unreal, kinetic and frozen, and the beauty that comes with them lies on the edge between these opposites.

## ***Procrastination* – Johnny Kelly**



Johnny Kelly trained at the Dublin Institute of Technology and received an MA in Animation from the Royal College of Art in 2007. At the Royal College, *Procrastination* was awarded one of six Conran Achievement Awards. Johnny was awarded a Shark Award for Best New Director in 2007 and in the same year was part of the London International Animation Festival at the Curzon, Soho. His work is about humour, fun and spontaneity. Most of his work is optimistic; reflecting the pleasure

Kelly finds in his work. His practice is energized by his love of the discipline, and is inspired by such animation practitioners as Shynola, Smith & Foulkes and Michel Gondry.

*Procrastination* is an investigative and exploratory hands-on, gloves-off study into the practice of putting things 'off'. Inspired by the struggles with creative block and distraction that surrounded the making of the film that became *Procrastination*, the animation offers an amusing and instantly recognisable representation of a universal experience. Rather than being fully storyboarded beforehand, as is usually the case with animated short films, Kelly opted to work more instinctively and spontaneously; thinking on his feet, ideas were often generated and realised within a day. Kelly says the process had a cathartic effect for him as a film-maker and it is hoped the viewer will feel similarly.

Bryan Quinn, who reads the narration, trained at the Jacques Lecoq theatre school in Paris and is an influential part of the theatrical scene in Ireland.

## ***Sea Change* – Rosie Pedlow & Joe King**

Rosie Pedlow and Joe King are two artist/filmmakers living and working in Essex and London. They originally met whilst studying Film and Animation in Wales at the Newport International Film School, from where they both graduated in 1998. King went on to study at the Royal College of Art, where he now teaches. The pair has worked independently on their own moving image practice, until coming together for the first time to collaborate on their submitted work, *Sea Change*.



Filmed on a caravan park at the end of the season, *Sea Change* reveals a landscape dramatically transformed by light and time, and resonating with the transience of human presence. The frail, hand-painted caravans that fill the site are soon to be removed and crushed to make way for a new housing development, so the film also acts as a kind of document for an unusual place on the brink of disappearance. The entire film consists of the same tracking shot, 300 metres long, filmed repeatedly at different times over a period of five days. It is closely akin to documentary in its use of camera as pure recording medium. However any semblance of narrative is rejected in favour of a framework that is at once formal and conceptual. This serves to focus the spectator's eye on the essential elements: the flatness of the landscape punctuated by caravans; the continual and dramatic changes in light; and the unrelenting passage of time.