



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Welsh National Opera Selects Shortlist for First Digital Art Performance Award for The Lumen Prize Exhibition

An Electric Knife Orchestra from the US, a ghostly grand piano from France and a Tree of Life Triptych from Hong Kong are among the five digitally-created works shortlisted for the first Welsh National Opera Prize Performance Award, organised in partnership with the world's pre-eminent digital art competition, The Lumen Prize Exhibition.

The award of US\$1,000 [£650] - plus a US\$1500 [£975] commission - will be presented to the winner by David Pountney, Artistic Director of WNO, at a gala ceremony in London on September 24th. The shortlist, which also includes works from Australia and Japan, was drawn-up by a WNO selection committee following submissions from digital artists all over the world to the annual Lumen Prize, based in Wales.

WNO and Lumen combined forces to award the new prize in order to recognise excellence in digital art for theatrical purpose, incorporating both sound and movement and image.

"Digital Art is fast becoming a vital component to the very best operatic performances globally. By using the magic of electronics and the brilliance of original coding, artists can enhance both established and new opera alike. We are thrilled with the quality of this short-list," says Carla Rapoport, Director of the Lumen Prize.

In addition to the prize of US\$1000, WNO is pleased to be offering a US\$1500 commission to the winning artist to develop his or her work in collaboration with the WNO team, with the possibility of its performance by WNO artists.

"WNO has launched this award to help us to explore the creative opportunities opened up by digital media. We regard this as primarily a vehicle for new creative thinking and are excited to explore where this might lead us, and how it might interact with a traditional but exceptionally rich genre such as opera."
says David Pountney, Artistic Director of the WNO.

Notes for Editors:

For images of the five shortlist works, please email James Brittan at James@Lumenprize.com

For the opportunity for an embargoed interview with the winner of the prize, please contact Penny James at Welsh National Opera at penny.james@wno.org.uk or Samantha Herbert at Samantha.herbert@wno.org.uk.

The First Shortlist of works for the first WNO Performance Award is:

[The Electric Knife Orchestra](#) - Neil Mendoza (US)

[Floating Worlds](#) - Justin Dwyer (Australia)

[Inner mind architecture](#) - Kenta Nakagawa (Japan)

[Portée](#) - Lab212 collective (France)

[Tree of Life Triptych](#) - Desmond Leung (Hong Kong)