



St Pancras International partners with House of Illustration and 'Charlie and Lola' author to launch worldwide hunt for young illustration talent

- *Lauren Child, bestselling author, illustrator, and creator of characters including 'Charlie and Lola', 'Clarice Bean' and 'Ruby Redfort' launches illustration prize in collaboration with House of Illustration and St Pancras International*
 - *Global competition opens for 18-25 year olds today (1 Feb 2018)*
- *Winner to receive £1,000 and support to kick-start their career in illustration*

01 February 2018: St Pancras International is extending its annual Betjeman Poetry Prize into the world of illustration, as it announces an exciting new global search for young illustrators in partnership with Waterstones Children's Laureate, Lauren Child, and London-based gallery, House of Illustration.

From today (1 February), aspiring young illustrators have the exciting opportunity to enter the first ever '[Lauren Child Poetry Illustration Prize](#)' - a worldwide competition for 18-25 year olds with a £1,000 prize fund, that challenges budding talent to illustrate winning poems from the [Betjeman Poetry Prize](#).

Lauren Child, Waterstones' Children's Laureate comments: "Three years ago I was one of the judges of the Betjeman Poetry Prize at St Pancras International. I was struck by the beauty of the poems, the sophistication of thought, and by how personal many of them were. On reading them I immediately thought that I would love to see them illustrated. For me short poetry is an ideal place to start illustration, because it encourages one to think abstractly, to take a poem and translate it into picture and in doing so to create something that enhances the words. I hope that illustrating one of these poems will give aspiring illustrators a chance to work to a challenging brief and, potentially, bring their work to a wider audience."

The entries will be judged by Lauren Child; director of the House of Illustration, Colin McKenzie; Queen's Gold Medal winning poet and artist, Imtiaz Dharker; and Jane Ferguson, editor of the Observer Review. Following a prize ceremony at House of Illustration in King's Cross, the winner and highly commended artists will see their work exhibited alongside the poems at St Pancras International between 6 September and 4 October 2018 - National Poetry Day.

Wendy Spinks, Commercial Director at HS1 comments: "We are celebrating St Pancras International's 150th birthday in 2018, so it is fitting that we will help celebrate young talent like never before by playing host to this new competition. As a destination known for offering new and exciting arts and music experiences, we look forward to displaying work from the world's up and coming illustrators in the run up to National Poetry Day."

House of Illustration Director and competition judge, Colin McKenzie, comments: "These poems present some wonderful opportunities for illustrators. The most successful illustration invariably results from a real empathy between illustrator and the work being illustrated so entrants should choose to illustrate a poem that really captures their imagination. We are really looking forward to seeing the different approaches taken."



The competition is now open for entries at www.betjemanpoetryprize.co.uk/laurenchildprize until 9am on 1 May 2018.

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For further information about St Pancras International contact Clarion Communications on 020 7479 0910 or email HS1@clarioncomms.co.uk

Notes to editors

About the Lauren Child Poetry Illustration Prize:

The Lauren Child Poetry Illustration Prize is an international illustration prize for illustrators aged 18- 25 to illustrate a poem by a Betjeman Poetry Prize finalists. There is a £1000 first prize, plus prizes for commended illustrators. The top 12 illustrators will be commissioned to create further work to be exhibited at St Pancras International station, London, in September 2018. The judges include the award-winning author and illustrator Lauren Child, director of the House of Illustration Colin McKenzie, Queen's Gold Medal winning poet and artist Imtiaz Dharker. Competition opens February 1st 2018 and closes on Tuesday May 1st 2018. For info: www.betjemanpoetryprize.co.uk/laurenchildprize

About St Pancras International Station:

St Pancras International station is a unique Grade I listed building owned by HS1 Ltd. Offering a wealth of stylish and premium shops, bars and restaurants all under one iconic roof, the venue is a destination, in its own right, as well as a world-class station.

Known for its calendar of new and exciting arts and music experiences, there's always something new to discover.

Visitors can also experience St Pancras International's free-to-play jukebox and station pianos, played by world famous stars including Elton John and John Legend, as well as the public day to day.

For more information about the station and its premium retailers, including Fortnum & Mason, Searcys, Whistles, kikki.K, plus recently launched Ted Baker, Chanel, and Calvin Klein visit <http://stpancras.com>.

150th anniversary

Celebrate St Pancras – the people, the place, the journey' – is a series of events, exhibitions and installations commissioned by HS1 Ltd for the anniversary year. It will showcase the transformation of the station, the entry and role of women into the railway workforce, St Pancras' role in the trade of goods, food and beer into London, the station's wartime history and the people and journeys that have been shaped by it.

St Pancras International has launched the St Pancras IPA to mark the anniversary, on sale now at station pub, The Betjeman Arms.

About HS1 Ltd:

HS1 Ltd has the 30-year concession to own and operate High Speed 1, the UK's first section of high speed rail, as well as the stations along the route: St Pancras International, Stratford International, Ebbsfleet International and Ashford International.

About House of Illustration:

House of Illustration is the UK's only public gallery dedicated solely to illustration and graphic art. Founded by Sir Quentin Blake it opened in July 2014 in King's Cross, London. Its exhibition programme explores both historic and contemporary illustration and the work of defining and emerging illustrators, amplified by a vibrant programme of talks and events. A registered charity, House of Illustration supports and promotes new talent, commissions new work and has a pioneering learning programme for children, young people, adults and families delivered by professional illustrators. houseofillustration.org.uk.

About the Betjeman Poetry Prize:

The Betjeman Poetry Prize, founded in 2006 on the centenary of former poet laureate Sir John Betjeman's birth, attracts thousands of entries from young poets aged 10-13 across the UK & Ireland. Through poetry camps, outreach work in schools and its annual performance at St Pancras International on National Poetry Day, the Betjeman Poetry Prize promotes literacy and provides a platform for new voices from the next generation.

About National Poetry Day:

National Poetry Day is an annual celebration, taking place this year on Thursday 4 October 2018, that inspires people throughout the UK to enjoy, discover and share poems. Everyone is invited to join in, whether by organising events, displays, competitions or by simply posting favourite lines of poetry on social media using #nationalpoetryday.

The initiative was founded in 1994 by the charity Forward Arts Foundation, whose mission is to celebrate excellence in poetry and increase its audience. The Day enjoys the support of the BBC, Arts Council England, the Royal