

# An angel rises in Islington as emerging star artist creates celestial public sculpture

APRIL 28, 2016 • BY ACASTLETON • NO COMMENTS

This week, rising star artist Alex J Wood was announced as the winner of the prestigious [Picton Art Prize](#), as his winning work 'Celestial' was unveiled at a ceremony in Islington. The award-winning artist revealed his dramatic bronze angel sculpture on Wednesday, launching north London's newest piece of public art.

Celestial, 2016. Artist: Alex J Wood. Image courtesy of Picton Art Prize

Created in the London Bronze Casting foundry, the impressive bronze sculpture will stand at 10m high, and is located as a centrepiece within Picton's Angel Gate development, EC1.

## Recognizing new talent

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*The Picton Art Prize judges comment that: "British eccentricity is a significant area of artistic practice, as well as the notions of obsessiveness through the creation of very intricate models. Alex J Wood combines lo-fi materials such as paper or wax with a high art material such as bronze, juxtaposing the two materials together to create amusing sculptures that portray narratives relating to*

endeavour.”

**Tim Hamlin, of sponsors, Picton, said:** “We are delighted to announce Alex J Wood as the winner of the Picton Art Prize. In developing the prize, we specifically wanted to recognise new and emerging talent. We are thrilled to support the talent developed at UAL, which is reflected in the high quality of the shortlist.”

**Nigel Carrington, Vice-Chancellor, UAL, said:** “It’s vital that we support our students and graduates in the early stages of their careers, offering them opportunities to develop their work and extend themselves, as well as high profile platforms on which to showcase their work to wider audiences. The Picton Art prize offers just this.”

## A rising star artist

Alex J Wood graduated from Chelsea College of Arts in 2014, with an [MA in Fine Art](#). In 2014 he became the first Foundry Fellow at Camberwell College of Arts where he created a series of space travel inspired bronzes including ‘Fly Me to the Moon’, a bronze space rocket based upon the 1902 Méliès film “A Trip to the Moon”. ‘Hidden Depths’, is verdigris green patinated bronze with an ambiguous form now in The Patrick and Kelly Lynch collection.

In 2015 Alex was shortlisted for both The Mark Tanner Sculpture Award and The Henry Moore Prize, and in 2014 he was selected for art residency in Beijing. In April 2013 Alex was resident at the Tokyo Wonder Site in Japan, and exhibited in Tokyo and London.

Alex was recently commissioned by Penguin Books to create a sculpture for Foyles Flagship store. Whilst studying for his MA Fine Art at Chelsea, Alex was the 2013 recipient of The Patrick and Kelly Lynch Scholarship. His work is held in various private collections in the USA and Europe, as well as the University of the Arts London collection. In both 2013 and 2014 he was shortlisted for The Mark Tanner Sculpture Award.

## The judges

The Picton Art Prize judging panel comprised artists Susanna Heron and Nick Hornby; Head of Culture for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Adriana Marques; Picton Asset Manager, Tim Harcourt; Director of External Relations, Central Saint Martins, UAL, Stephen Beddoe.

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See Alex J Wood's prize-winning Angel sculpture at [Angel Gate, Islington, EC1](#)

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