***PRESS RELEASE***

Ralph Steadman and Graham Clarke to Guest Judge for the Bentlif Open Art Prize 2015

Application deadline: 6th February
Winner announced: 13th March
Exhibition: 14th March – 3rd May

We are delighted to announce that Ralph Steadman and Graham Clarke will be joining the judging panel for the 2015 Bentlif Open Art Prize.

The competition showcases artwork from emerging artists over 18 in the south east, providing them with a platform to exhibit their original artwork over the course of a two month exhibition at Maidstone Museum and Bentlif Art Gallery.

The closing date for applications is February 6th. Successful entrants, whose work will feature in the special Bentlif Open Art Prize exhibition, will be notified of their selection by 16th February.

Artists can submit up to three works with the chance to explain their choice. There are two ways to apply: by post or by email. Full details of the application process and the application form can be found on the museum’s website: www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk.

The exhibition of successful entrants will be on display within the Bentlif Art Galleries at Maidstone Museum from Saturday 14th March to Sunday 3rd May.

A private viewing will take place on Friday 13th March before the opening of the exhibition. At the private viewing the Bentlif Open Art Prize Winner will be announced by Graham Clarke and Ralph Steadman.

Ralph Steadman’s retrospective exhibition is coming to Maidstone Museum and Bentlif Art Gallery this December, starting on the 6th and running until the 28th February.

In addition to the Prize, a ‘People’s Choice’ winner will be the work with the most votes from visitors, to be counted when the exhibition closes on 3 May. The artist will be offered free space to exhibit in the museum’s Brenchley Cafe Gallery in early 2016.

The Bentlif Trust look forward to receiving all of your great work and wish all of the artists good luck with their entries.
***ENDS***

Notes to editors:

For further information, please contact

Lyn Palmer, Interpretation Manager at Maidstone Museum on 01622 602862 or evelynpalmer@maidstone.gov.uk

About the image

The attached image is of a previous Bentlif Open Art Prize winner. Pictured in the image are: Graham Clarke (L) with representatives from the H R Pratt Boorman Family Foundation and Bentlif Trust. 2012.

About the Ralph Steadman Exhibition

Ralph Steadman: A Retrospective - December 6th to February 28th

An exciting exhibition from the Cartoon Museum celebrating the career of Ralph Steadman and exploring the full range of the artist’s work. Exhibition includes his earliest published cartoon from 1956, material from Private Eye, Punch, and Rolling Stone, as well as his illustrated books including Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass and Animal Farm.

Also on display will be Steadman’s atmospheric wine drawings produced for Oddbins catalogues, humanitarian pictures, savage political cartoons and some of his charming and funny illustrations for children’s books.

Admission: Adults £3, Concession £2.

About Maidstone Museum & Bentlif Art Gallery

Situated in the heart of Kent’s County Town and housed in a range of historic buildings, Maidstone Museum & Bentlif Art Gallery contains over 660,000 artefacts and specimens, making it the largest collection in Kent and one of the best regional museums in the South East.

The Museum is a “treasure trove”. The quality of the collections is outstanding and their diversity staggering. They include:

- Native art from North and South America, the Pacific and Australasia.
- The finest ceramics collection in the region.
- Over 6,000 paintings, prints and drawings and sculpture by Epstein and Moore.
- The most important collection of Japanese Edo-period art outside London.
• A comprehensive record of British flora and fauna and tens of thousands of natural history specimens from Europe and the Far East.
• Medals and memorabilia from the Queen’s Own Royal West Kent Regimental collection.
• 40,000 fossils including the remains of Maidstone’s very own dinosaur, the Iguanodon.

The Museum is owned and operated by Maidstone Borough Council. Its core is a Tudor manor house dating from 1561. It was acquired by the Council along with its contents in 1855 from the estate of Thomas Charles, a local doctor. The ‘Charles Museum’ was opened three years later. In the late 19th century local benefactors added huge wings to the Elizabethan mansion to house the growing collections and now the whole magnificent edifice is Grade II* listed.

Open Monday – Saturday 10.00 – 17.00

Free entry

www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk
@MaidstoneMuseum
museuminfo@maidstone.gov.uk

About the Bentlif Open Arts Prize

The Bentlif Open Art Prize showcases artwork from emerging artists in the South East. The exhibition was held in 2006 and 2008 and again in 2012. The competition provides artists aged 18 years and over with a platform to exhibit and sell their original art work.

Exhibition Dates: Saturday 14th March – Sunday 3rd May 2015
Private View: Friday 13th March 2015 18:00 – 19:30

Entry

1. Fill in the entry form below; you can enter up to three works.

There are two ways to send us details of your entry:

By post - enclose a photograph of each artwork you wish to be displayed, with the title, medium and dimensions clearly stated. Attach your name and address to each photograph. Enclose a completed entry form.

Post to -
Bentlif Open Art Prize entry
Maidstone Museum & Bentlif Art Gallery
St Faith’s Street
Maidstone ME14 1LH
(or you can drop this in at the Museum reception, open 10am-5pm, Mon – Sat).

By email - digital images of each artwork can be supplied direct to
evelynpalmer@maidstone.gov.uk with the title, medium and dimensions clearly stated and the completed entry form also attached.

2. Tell us about your work

Enclose a maximum of 100 words describing your work and detailing the inspiration behind it. This statement will help us to understand your work and will be used to prepare labels for successful entries.

3. Pay for your entry

Each entry is £10.00, therefore 2 entries £20.00 and 3 entries £30.00. Please note that all funds raised will be used by the Bentlif Trust to support the costs of future exhibitions.

There are two ways to pay:

By cheque – made payable to ‘Maidstone Borough Council’ (who are collating monies on behalf of the Bentlif Trust). Please write Bentlif Open Art Prize on the back of your cheque. Enclose a cheque if you are posting or dropping off the entry form/photos/inspiration details to the Museum.

By phone - if you are emailing your entry form/photos/inspiration details you can pay via the phone on 01622 602838.

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRIES IS 6TH FEBRUARY 2015.
Successful artists will be notified of the outcome of their entry by 16th February 2015.

If your entry is successful:

- Work selected for the exhibition must be delivered to the Museum between Monday 2nd March and Friday 6th March 2015. The Museum’s opening hours are 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday (closed on Sunday through the winter).
- All framed and hung works must be marked with a 'this way up' arrow.
- All framed and hung works must be fixed with mirror plates for hanging.
- All framed and 3D work selected must be clearly labelled with the title, medium, name and address of the exhibitor.
- All exhibited work must be collected from the museum between Tuesday 5th May and Saturday 9th May 2015.