

Press Release

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'Lilies for Oscar Wilde' - shortlisted for two awards in the prestigious Reading Cultural Awards

The project 'Lilies for Oscar Wilde', which was a partnership with independent artists and makers, Reading Museum, Reading Guild of Artists (RGA), Jelly, Two Rivers Press, Whiteknights Studio Trail, Cherubs Floral Design, Friends of Reading Museum and Haslams has been shortlisted for two categories in this year's prestigious Reading Cultural Awards. The two categories are; 'Made in Reading' and 'Celebrating Reading's Heritage'.

Nearly 600 nominations were submitted for the Reading Cultural Awards 2018 which celebrate the best of Reading's arts, culture and heritage.

Thérèse Lawlor, a member of the Lilies steering group said: "When we started on the project in 2017, none of us I am sure imagined the interest there would be.

"We had over 70 'lilies' made in a variety of ways, each celebrating the life of Oscar Wilde. Artists really took the project to their hearts and the result was fantastic. We held a silent auction to raise money for Launchpad, a Reading-based homelessness charity which raised over £1000. To have the project recognised in this way is truly awe inspiring and a testament to all the hard work by all involved. Whatever the outcome – we are delighted to have the project recognised and the profile of many local groups and artists raised."

Elaine Blake, exhibitions & partnerships curator, Reading Museum, said: "It has been great fun working with so many generous individuals, all doing it for the love of Oscar Wilde and making a beautiful installation."

Anthony Wilder, chairman of Reading Guild of Artists, said: "I am delighted for all involved in this project to have it shortlisted for not one, but two awards.

"It was exciting, inspiring and humbling to be involved and I am honoured to have it recognised at these prestigious awards. It raises the profile of

many local organisations and I am sure will help with any future partnership projects. It also raises the profile of Reading's vibrant arts and crafts scene and a fitting tribute to the man who inspired it."

The awards recognise excellence in arts, culture and heritage across 12 categories to reflect the breadth of the Reading arts scene, including a Made in Reading Award, Cultural Ambassador Award, Young Talent, Cultural Space Award and Performance of the Year.

The Reading Cultural Awards will culminate in an awards ceremony on Wednesday 27 June at the historic Olympia Ballroom. The Awards are organised by Reading UK, with support from Haslams, Jacobs the Jewellers, the Olympia Ballroom and The Banquet Kitchen, BBC Radio Berkshire, The Oracle Shopping Centre, Cream Design, Barton Willmore, Grant Thornton UK, The Breeze Reading, The Reading Chronicle and Reading BID.

Further information on the Reading Guild of Artists, can be found by visiting <http://www.rga-artists.org.uk/> or <https://www.facebook.com/ReadingGuildofArtists/>

This press release has been produced by the publicity officers from the Reading Guild of Artists who are working on behalf of the 100 lilies partnership.

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Photos attached

Attached are photos of the artists and their 'lily'

Linda Saul

Jo Dennis

Also attached is an image of the 'lily; bouquet – made from the 100 'lilies'