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SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED FOR £10,000 AWARD IN CINEMATOGRAPHY

OLE BRATT BIRKELAND, URSZULA PONTIKOS and SADIK AHMED were short listed today for the Arts Foundation Fellowship 2010 worth £10,000 to the winning applicant.

The impressive cinematographers were short-listed were among those nominated by established and practising artists and other professionals working within the art form.

The judges included Ben Cook, director of Lux, an arts agency which explores ideas around artists' moving image practice through exhibition, distribution, publishing, education and research. And artist filmmaker Jayne Parker who has made work for cinema, television and the gallery.

The £10,000 fellowships are there to offer 'a creative breathing space' for artists who have achieved some recognition for their work but for whom a time of creative development without the worry of where the next commission is coming from could be crucial to bring them forward in their practice.

Cinematography is just one of five art forms the Arts Foundation is awarding this year. £10,000 fellowships will also be awarded to artists in the field of Jewellery Design, Graphic Novels, Puppetry and Textile Art.

The recipients of the awards will be announced on the 20th January at the Arts Foundation Awards 2010 at Pentagram London.

The Arts Foundation was set up 18 years ago with funds from an anonymous donor. Since 1993 it has awarded over 1.2 million pounds in fellowships to artists who work in the areas of craft, fine art, performing arts, film, design and new media. Previous fellows include choreographer Wayne MacGregor, ceramicist Philip Eglin, poet Alice Oswald, writer Michel Faber, opera composer Deirdre Gribbin, director Rufus Norris and fashion designer Sophia Kokosalaki.

The Arts Foundation's Fellowship Programme is now well established as a model of how to offer low-key but highly effective support to individual artists. Fellowships are awarded on the basis of talent and need to artists working and residing in the UK.

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NOTES TO EDITOR:

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Details of Cinematography shortlist:

URSZULA PONTIKOS

Having completed her BA at Ravensbourne in Broadcasting and Film Studies Urszula went onto the NFTS in 2007 to complete an MA in Cinematography. She loves work that seeks to record the experience of travelling and different cultures and explores the light and textures of unfamiliar spaces.

Two years ago she went to China's western region, Zinjiang, to uncover a story about the Uighur minority who live there. The resulting film *China's Wild West* was invited to the Sundance Film Festival and has toured the world subsequently showing at a myriad of festivals. Another project just completed is a film entitled *I Do Air* about the relationship of a small girl and her swimming pool. Chosen for her ability to capture people lost in the landscape this is a theme Urszula continues to explore in her work. Should she win the fellowship she would like to work on a six portraits of disparate human communities including the Nanets of Siberia, the Moken of Thailand and the Massai in Kenya, which would be worked into one feature documentary.