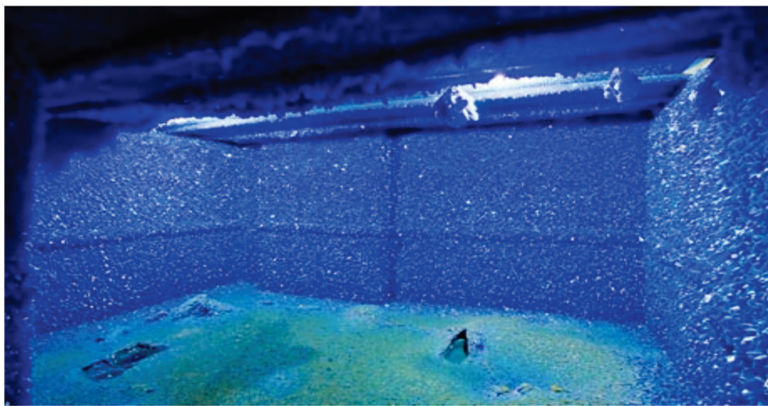


Collages, wall paintings and a cavern of crystals on the Turner prize shortlist

Artists Roger Hiorns, Enrico David, Lucy Skaer and Richard Wright are this year's Turner prize nominees



Into the blue ... Detail from *Seizure* (2008) by Turner prize-nominated artist Roger Hiorns. Photograph: Marcus Leith

Roger Hiorns, who transformed a condemned south London flat into a cavern filled with eerie blue crystals, is among the four artists nominated for the 2009 Turner prize, it was announced this morning.

Also on the list is Enrico David, 43, praised by the Guardian's Jonathan Jones as "a brilliant and authentically creative stylist" who creates collages, drawings and sculpture; Glasgow-based Lucy Skaer, 34, who often bases her drawings on photojournalism; and Richard Wright, 49, a maker of sparse, delicately crafted wall paintings who is also based in Glasgow.

Hiorns, 34, uses eclectic materials in his works, including detergent, disinfectant, perfume and other chemical

solutions. His most famous piece to date is last year's crystal project, which was entitled Seizure and based inside an ex-council flat just south of London Bridge. The artist poured thousands of litres of copper sulphate into the flat and then waited for it to crystallise. The work saw many hundreds of visitors queuing up to don wellies and gloves and explore its miasmic spaces.

The four artists on the shortlist now have just six months to create and install a group show, which will open to the public at Tate Britain in October. The winner, announced at a ceremony in December, will take home £25,000; the three runners-up will each receive £5,000.

The Turner prize was set up in 1984 to recognise emerging contemporary artists in the UK. It is awarded every year to a British artist under the age of 50 for an outstanding exhibition of their work in the past 12 months.

Last year's winner was Mark Leckey, a self-described "modern-day dandy" who uses clips and stills from Disney cartoons, Felix the Cat, The Simpsons and Titanic in his work.

This year's judges are Jonathan Jones, writer and broadcaster Mariella Frostrup, Folkestone Triennial director Andrea Schlieker and Charles Esche, the director of the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven. Stephen Deuchar, Tate Britain's director, is this year's chairman.