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The **Sovereign Art Foundation** announces that Halima Cassell's *Acapella* has won the 14th **Sovereign Asian Art Prize** and Muhammad Onaiz Taji's *25th December 2016* has won The Public Vote Prize. The winners were selected from a strong shortlist of 30 artworks by a panel of specialists.

Art Radar reports

A renowned nonprofit in support of projects helping disadvantaged children, the Sovereign Art Foundation has announced its 2018 winners

for the 14th annual Sovereign Asian Art Prize. Halima Cassell's *Acapella* has earned the artist the title of the 2018 Sovereign Asian Art Prize Winner, a trophy and a money prize of USD 30,000. Muhammad Onaiz Taji's *25th December 2016* was recognised as the public's favourite piece by popular vote and the artist received an award of USD 1,000.

Pakistan-born Halima Cassell (b. 1975) graduated from the University of Central Lancashire with an MA in Design (2002) and a BA in 3D Design (1994).

Also from Pakistan, Muhammad Onaiz Taji (b. 1991) graduated from the National College of Arts, Lahore with a BFA in Indo-Persian Miniature Painting (2016).

The winners were selected from a strong shortlist of 30 artworks by a panel of specialists including Alexandra A. Seno, Head of Development at Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong; David Elliott, writer, curator and museum director; Fumio Nanjo, Director of the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo and Art Education International Director of Hong Kong Arts School; Jan Dalley, Arts Editor of the Financial Times; and Rashid Rana, celebrated contemporary artist. The results were selected from a distinguished group of 328 mid-career artists with a total of 530 entries nominated by over 70 independent art professionals across Asia-Pacific.

Read the [full report on Art Radar](#), including an interview with the main prize winner Halima Cassell to know more about the artist and her work.

Held annually, the **Sovereign Asian Art Prize** invites mid-career contemporary artists - nominated by a carefully selected board of independent art experts from the region - to enter up to three artworks online. Entries are then shortlisted by a small judging panel consisting of world-class art specialists, who select the best 30 artworks from a range of digital images. These 30 artworks are exhibited in a prominent public space in Hong Kong, where the pieces are judged a second time, in person.

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