

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leeds College of Art student crowned winner of The Big Painting Challenge

Leeds College of Art Access to HE Diploma student, Suman Kaur, beat off nine other contenders to be crowned overall champion in BBC One's The Big Painting Challenge. The result was announced after an exciting Sunday night final, in which the four remaining artists were put through their paces in a series of increasingly difficult challenges, including painting from a boat on the Thames!

Art has always been a passion for Leeds-based Suman, who recently left her full time job working in Prosthetics and Orthotics to pursue a career as an artist. Her previous job as an Orthotist, and her experience working with amputees, inspired her to not to give up on her dreams of becoming a full time artist, and she hopes that her success on The Big Painting Challenge will allow her to prove herself.

Suman Kaur is currently studying at Leeds College of Art on the Access to HE Diploma (Art & Design), a course designed for adults returning to education who are looking to pursue a professional career in art and design. Suman, who is from Leeds, plans to stay in her hometown after completing her studies to follow her aspirations of becoming a recognised artist.

Speaking of Suman's success, Adam Stone, Access to HE Course Leader said:

"We are delighted that Suman has won BBC One's The Big Painting Challenge. Before joining our Access to HE Diploma (Art & Design) course Suman didn't have any formal art training; but the determination, ambition and talent that she demonstrates as a student was evident throughout the show. We are proud to celebrate her success, well done Suman!"

Editor's Notes

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Leeds College of Art

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds College of Art has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. Today, Leeds College of Art remains one of only a few remaining independent art schools in the UK, leading the way as a centre for art and design education. The College has an impressive history of notable past students, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth were students in 1919 and 1920. In later years Damien Hirst, Marcus Harvey, Eric Bainbridge, Clio Barnard and Georgina Starr all studied at the College, known then as the Jacob Kramer College. The College's recent graduates continue to win prestigious international awards year on year and enjoy successful careers in the creative industries.

Leeds College of Art has recently started of building works on a new £14 million state-of-the-art expansion, due to be completed by summer 2018. The expansion marks the start of an exciting journey for the College, with plans in place to become the only specialist arts university in the North of England.

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