



Association of Colleges Charitable Trust



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

College student strikes GOLD in AoC Award design

Rachael Forster, a student at Leeds College of Art, was chosen as the trophy designer for this year's prestigious Association of Colleges (AoC) Gold Awards, held at the House of Commons in June; which included high profile winners, designer John Rocha CBE and Turner Prize winning artist Elizabeth Price.

The AoC Charitable Trust presents the Gold Awards to a select number of famous former college student alumni each year in recognition of the vital role of further education has played in their careers and continuing achievements. Past winners include Dragons' Den investor and successful entrepreneur Deborah Meaden, Formula 1 driver Martin Brundle, actors Colin Firth and Idris Elba and TV gardener Alan Titchmarsh.

Rachael is currently a Creative-in-Residence on the Art and Design (Interdisciplinary) BA (Hons) degree course at the College. She created her design from walnut, gold leaf and pre-cat lacquer, and the use of different colours ensures each award can be designed to be individual to the winner and their journey.

Rachael said: "The Gold Awards represent a diverse range of talented and valuable individuals. The dynamic shape allows nine awards to be produced with individual shapes, giving each winner an award that is unique to them.

I used walnut to make the award as it is soft and tactile and the inviting colours will help the winners to remember their achievement for years to come."

Martin Doel, Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges, said: "The design of these awards demonstrates the quality of work that college students attain and once again it was a tough decision in choosing who would design the Gold Award trophy. It is important to celebrate the work of students publicly, and I have no doubt that Rachael will take the skills she learned at college and go on to have a fantastic career in her chosen field."

More information about the Gold Awards can be seen here: www.aoc.co.uk/gold

Editor's Notes

For more information, photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact: Emma Morris, PR & Communications Officer, Leeds College of Art; on 0113 202 8044 or emma.morris@leeds-art.ac.uk

Link to photos [here](#). Photo caption: Award designer Rachael Forster with Gold Award winners; Left to right: Mary Al-Khudri, Carl Lygo, Lucy Powell MP, Rachael Forster (Award designer), Professor Julien Baker, Elizabeth Price, and John Rocha CBE.

www.leeds-art.ac.uk

About the Association of Colleges Charitable Trust Gold Awards:

The Awards are in their 16th consecutive year and are presented by the AoC Charitable Trust to celebrate success through further education.

Colleges from around the country are given the opportunity to nominate former students who have excelled in their chosen field, having benefited greatly from their experience of further education.

This is to acknowledge the importance of further education, either as a gateway to higher education, or as a platform from which students can begin their careers.

The awards honour former college students who have gone on to excel in their future career field. This year's winners of the Gold Awards are:

- Mary Al-Khudri, opened the first Muslim/Islamic Hair and Beauty salon - Barnet & Southgate College
- Professor Julien Baker, Director, Institute for Clinical Exercise & Health Science at the University of West Scotland - Coleg y Cymoedd
- John Rocha, Designer - Croydon College
- Carl Lygo, Vice-Chancellor, BPP University - Doncaster College
- Elizabeth Price, Turner Prize Winner - Luton Sixth Form College
- Kevin Sinfield, Leeds Rhinos rugby captain - Oldham Sixth Form College
- Howard Webb, International football referee - Rotherham College
- Lucy Powell MP Labour and Cooperative MP for Manchester Central and Shadow Minister for the Cabinet Office - Xaverian College

About the Association of Colleges (AoC) - www.aoc.co.uk:

AoC's membership includes 325 colleges in England, including general further education, sixth form, tertiary and land-based colleges. It supports, represents and protects the interests of its member colleges, as well as the rest of the FE sector.