

# THE WALPOLE SOCIETY

## Berger Prize governance policy, updated April 2025

### Introduction

The Walpole Society (WS) and the Berger Prize have the same aim - to promote and encourage excellence in the research, writing and publication of British art history.

The Society undertakes to govern the judging and awarding of the Prize in a transparent and accountable manner. This policy is to be made available to the general public online on the Berger Prize webpages.

### The Prize

The Prize is an initiative of the Berger Collection Educational Trust (BCET), (US 501(c)(3) non profit, EIN 33-6258491).

It is administered via an annual subvention to the Walpole Society (UK registered charity no. 270280) to cover administration, publicity and other costs.

### Roles and responsibilities

The WS is aware that the Prize and the Society operate within a shared space and thus the separation of activity between the judging panel and the Committees is of the utmost importance. There are three layers of governance:

1. **The panel of assessors** (judges) whose members undertake a binding commitment to the two key principles of impartiality and confidentiality when they are appointed. The judges are currently: Jonny Yarker (chairman), Alex Marr (Cambridge, WS trustee), Julia Marciari-Alexander (President, Samuel H. Kress Foundation), Angelica Daneo (Chief curator, Denver Art Museum), Clare Hornsby (Walpole Society), Michael Hatt (Professor, University of Warwick).

Katherine Berger (chair of the BCET) attends this panel *ex-officio* as observer.

Discussion of authors and books at all stages of the assessment process is completely confidential.

2. **The Berger Prize sub-committee** which meets to discuss logistics and forward planning for prize meetings, events and communications and which reports to the Executive Committee. There is no discussion of book titles or authors in sub-committee. Members of this sub-committee are currently: Christina Faraday (chair), Giles Mandelbrote, Lawrence Hendra, Clare Hornsby, all Trustees. The WS Executive Administrator attends the meetings. One non-trustee WS member may be added, if required.

3. **The Executive Committee** listens to the report of the subcommittee and makes binding decisions related to the WS and the Prize administration according to its Constitution and the Charity Commission guidelines.

### **Rules**

1. The Assessors panel is made up of six judges, these appointments are reviewed annually.
2. No member of the panel of assessors can be the primary author or editor of a book submitted for the Prize.
3. No Walpole Society publication can be submitted for the Prize.
4. No Walpole Society trustee can be the primary author or editor of a book submitted for the Prize.

### **Reporting**

The Chair of the Assessors is to maintain privately a general record of panel decisions, to ensure accountability. These records to be entered into the WS Minutes annually, after the prize-giving.

*Policy drafted and approved by the Executive Committee of the Walpole Society  
London April 2nd 2025*