78 Art

a painting by J.M.W. Turner, after whom the Turner Prize is named

The Turner Prize is awarded **annually** to a British visual artist for **outstanding artistic merit**. The winner also receives £25,000, although the amount has **varied depending on** the **sponsor**. The public can **submit** an artist **nomination**, and the **panel** of judges then selects a **shortlist** of three or four from their own nominations and those of the public. They select a winner on the day of the award ceremony, and the **venue alternates between** Tate Britain and galleries outside London.

Although it remains one of the most **prestigious** European art awards, it is also extremely **controversial**, and **splits** opinion in the art world. Some critics believe it **demonstrates** the most **pretentious** aspects of contemporary British art, while others think the Turner **deserves** respect for rewarding art which is **bold, challenging** and **imaginative**.

GLOSSARY

annually	every year ALSO **monthly/daily**, etc.
outstanding	extremely good SYN **excellent**
artistic	connected with art or artists; showing a natural skill in or enjoyment of art
merit	the quality of being good and deserving admiration
vary	change or be different according to the situation **variable** *adj*
depending on sb/sth	used for saying that you are not certain of sth until other things have been considered
sponsor	a person or company that pays for sth, e.g. a sporting or cultural event, usually in return for advertising
submit	give a document, proposal, etc. to sb in authority so they can study it
nomination	the act of suggesting or choosing sb as a candidate in an election, or for a job or award **nominate** *v*
panel	a group of specialists who are asked to give their opinion on sth
shortlist	a small number of candidates for a job, award, etc. that have been chosen from all those who applied or were nominated
prestigious	respected and admired as very important or of high quality
controversial	causing a lot of angry public argument and disagreement **controversy** *n*
split	divide, or make a group of people divide, into smaller groups with different opinions **split** *n*
demonstrate	show sth clearly by your actions SYN **display**
venue	a place where people meet for an organized event, e.g. a concert, ceremony, conference, etc.
alternate (between A and B)	change from one thing to another and back again
pretentious	trying to be important, intelligent etc. or sth you are not in order to impress people
deserve	If sb **deserves** sth, it is right they should have it because of the way they have behaved or what they are.
bold	(of people and the things they do and create) brave and confident; not afraid to take risks
challenging	difficult in an interesting way
imaginative	having or showing new and exciting new ideas

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Underline the stress on these words. Use the APP to help you.

outstanding	depending	submit	nominate	nomination	controversial
alternate *v*	venue	prestigious	imaginative	pretentious	controversy

2 Circle the correct answer(s). Sometimes both answers are possible.

1 The quality of his work ***varies / alternates***.
2 He ***deserves / displays*** the award for the way he has helped younger artists.
3 I think this is an ***excellent / outstanding*** work of art.
4 There aren't any new ideas in the work, but it's still quite ***challenging / imaginative***.
5 The Turner Prize is a ***bold / prestigious*** award; that's why people want to win it.
6 Some paintings ***split / divide*** opinion among art critics.
7 She ***displays / demonstrates*** her love of Matisse when she paints in oil.
8 They ***nominated / submitted*** several people for the award.

3 Replace the underlined words with a single word that keeps the same meaning.

1 The prize is awarded <u>every year</u>. .....
2 A <u>group of specialist people</u> will make the final decision. .....
3 The <u>place where they hold the event</u> changes from year to year. .....
4 We need to find a <u>person with money who will support us</u>. .....
5 The award often causes a lot of <u>public argument and disagreement</u>. .....
6 I think she has <u>shown clearly by her actions</u> why she deserves to win. .....
7 The winner will be chosen from a <u>small number of the candidates who applied</u>. .....
8 I think Rothko's paintings are quite <u>interesting but difficult to understand</u>. .....

4 Complete the sentences.

1 *Guernica* is possibly Picasso's greatest ..... achievement.
2 Several sponsors have ..... a proposal for a new kind of art scholarship.
3 Lucian Freud received two ..... for the Turner Prize but never won it.
4 In the end the judges were ..... down the middle: two for and two against.
5 I think the art world is full of ..... people who are just trying to impress people and give the impression they are cleverer than they really are.
6 Antony Gormley is a very ..... sculptor. He takes on brave subject matter and on a large scale.
7 I've looked at most of his paintings and I can't see much artistic ..... at all.
8 Goldsmiths is one of the UK's most ..... institutions and attracts thousands of applications for Fine Art degrees each year.

5 Complete the sentences on the right. Keep the same meaning as the sentences on the left.

1 It changes from Melbourne to Sydney.	It alternates ..... .
2 The quality of the work varies.	The quality of the work is ..... .
3 Colours change according to the season.	Colours change depending ..... .
4 The paintings have lots of exciting new ideas.	The paintings are very ..... .
5 Her work attracts a lot of controversy.	Her work is very ..... .
6 They nominated three people.	There were three ..... .

6 ABOUT YOU **Look at some examples of contemporary art (since 2000) online. Focus on five different works of art and decide what you think about them. Are they bold, imaginative, challenging, controversial, pretentious or variable in quality? Write your answers, or talk to another student.**

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TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS