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News & Reviews

Exhibition: The Marmite Prize 2010

By Sarah Walters | Thu, 09 December, 2010

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Central Art Gallery, Tameside - until February 26, 2011

As the year draws to a close and the latest Turner Prize winner is announced, the art world is busy delivering countless pats on the back to the current pool of contemporary talent.

Among the prizes that critics have started to look to for future names is the relatively young Marmite Prize For Painting, open to British and international artists that tours its entire shortlist across three UK galleries before choosing a winner in the spring.

This year, Tameside's Central Art Gallery will be the first to show works by 45 shortlisted painters at its Old Street

gallery, Ashton-under-Lyne, alongside the prize that will be awarded to the winner – a mixed-media sculpture called Hammerhead by Turner Prize finalist Bill Woodrow.

And as a double honour for the gallery, Central's curator of art Marie Holland was involved in selecting the final pieces chosen to go on tour from the 600 entries ahead of the winners announcement in May.

The Marmite Prize (no relation to the yeast-based spread) was launched in 2006, and has gone on to establish itself as a unconventional art prize – one that does not adhere to the Zeitgeist or specific disciplines, encouraging everything from landscape paintings and sculpture to portraits, abstracts and still lifes to be submitted.

It is the only festival that can truly call itself 'nomadic' – a biennial event that takes the paintings to the people and regards giving the public access to the work as important as the prize itself. In 2010, the shortlist is particularly interesting for our region. Five of the 45 artists come from the north west, and two come from Manchester – David Hancock and Iain Andrews.



They paint in altogether different disciplines; Andrews' abstract portrait, created in acrylic on canvas, has something of the violence and distortion of Francis Bacon, while Hancock's enormous work Sea Of Ice (also in acrylic) is painstakingly detailed and imaginative.

Among the other stand out works are Amir Chasson's large-scale oil work, Nazi Painting, Hugh Davies' surrealist Ship Of Fools, Louisa Durose's expressive scene Ama School, Kate Knight's noose in Illuminated, Amy Moffat's humorous Art Attack and Doreen Wittenbols' gruesome portrait 100410DIRTYGERTY.

At Central Art Gallery, Tameside, until February 26, 2011 (closed Monday and Sunday, full opening times at tameside.gov.uk/museumsgalleries). Free.

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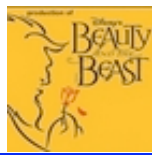
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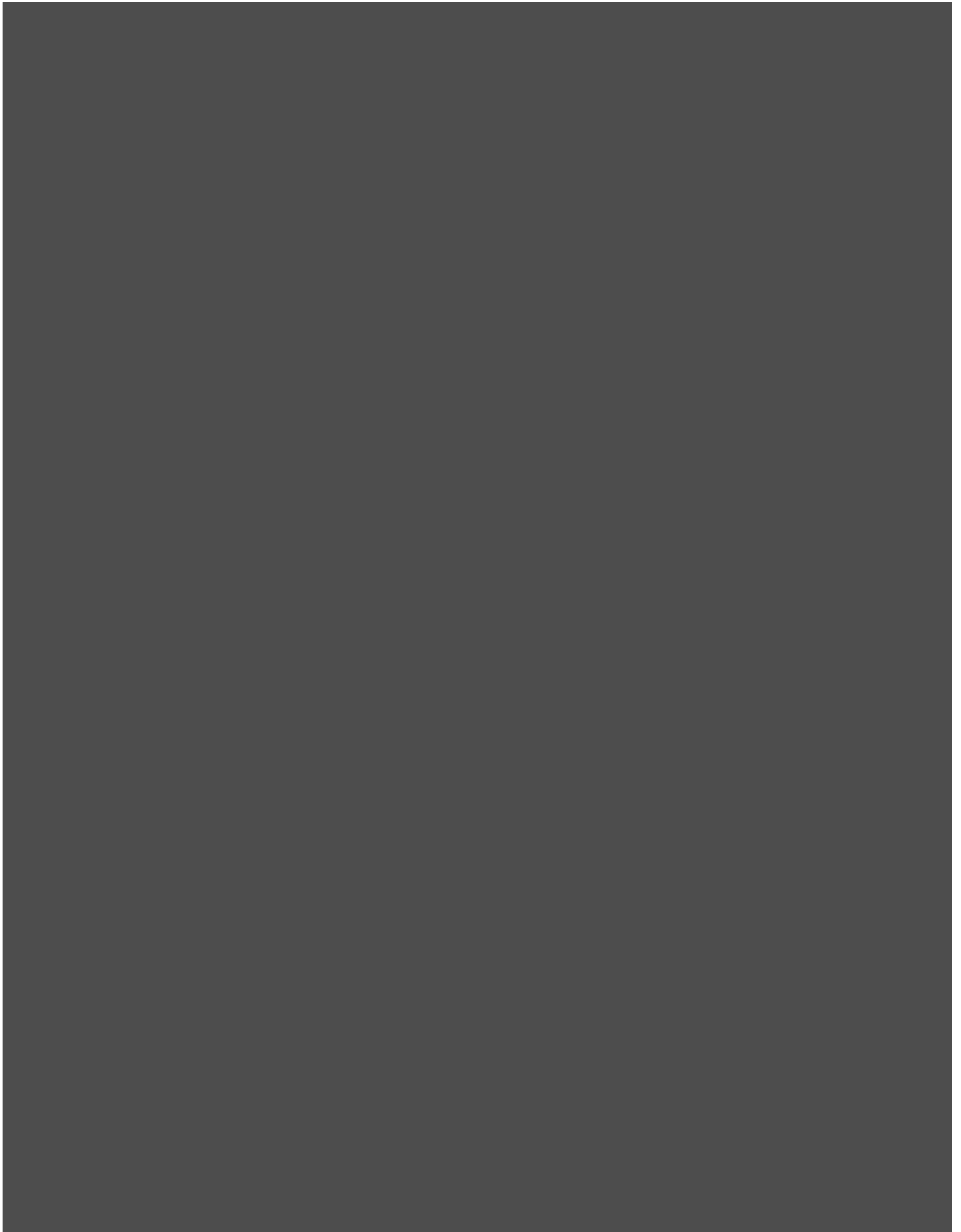
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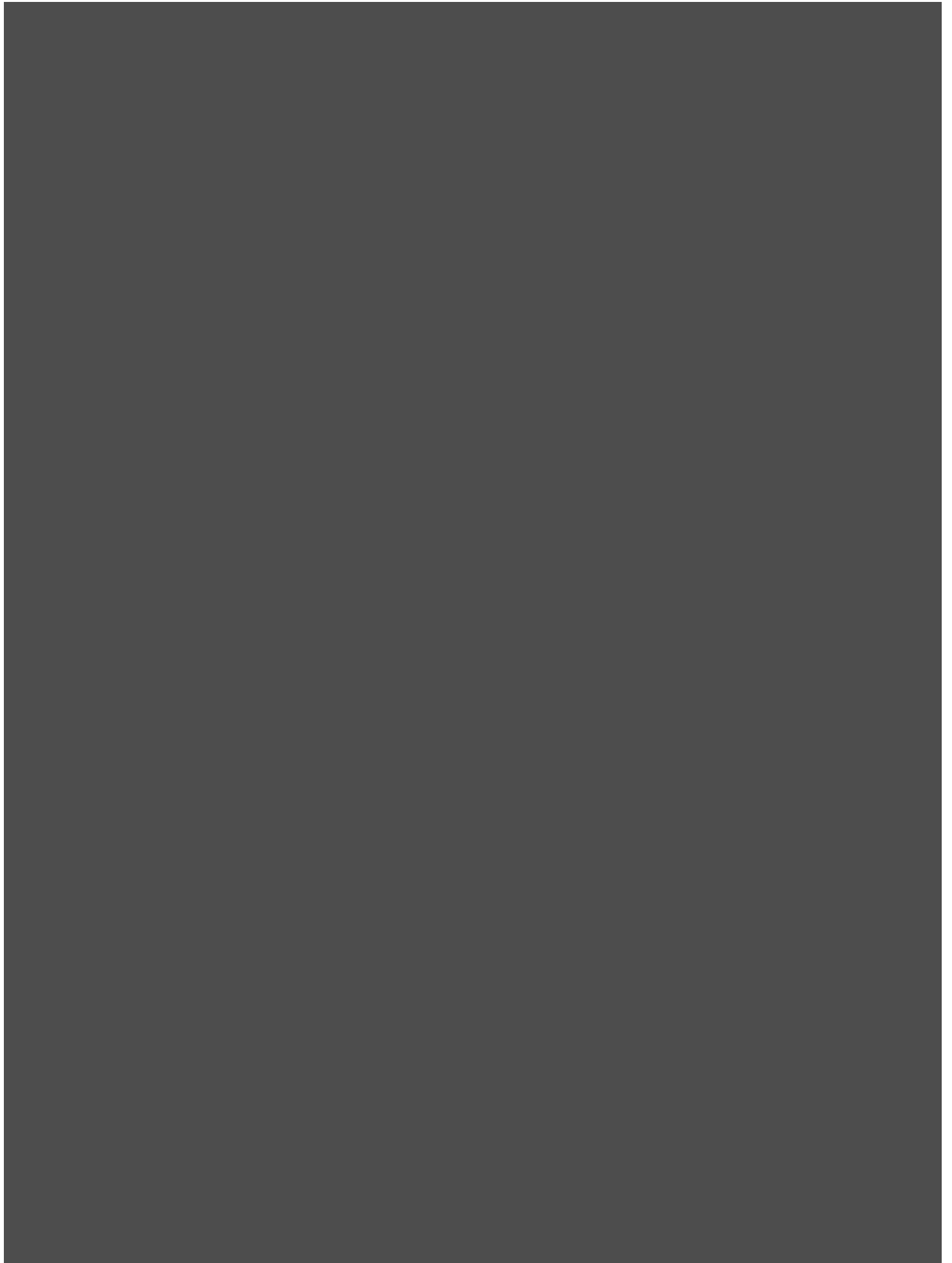
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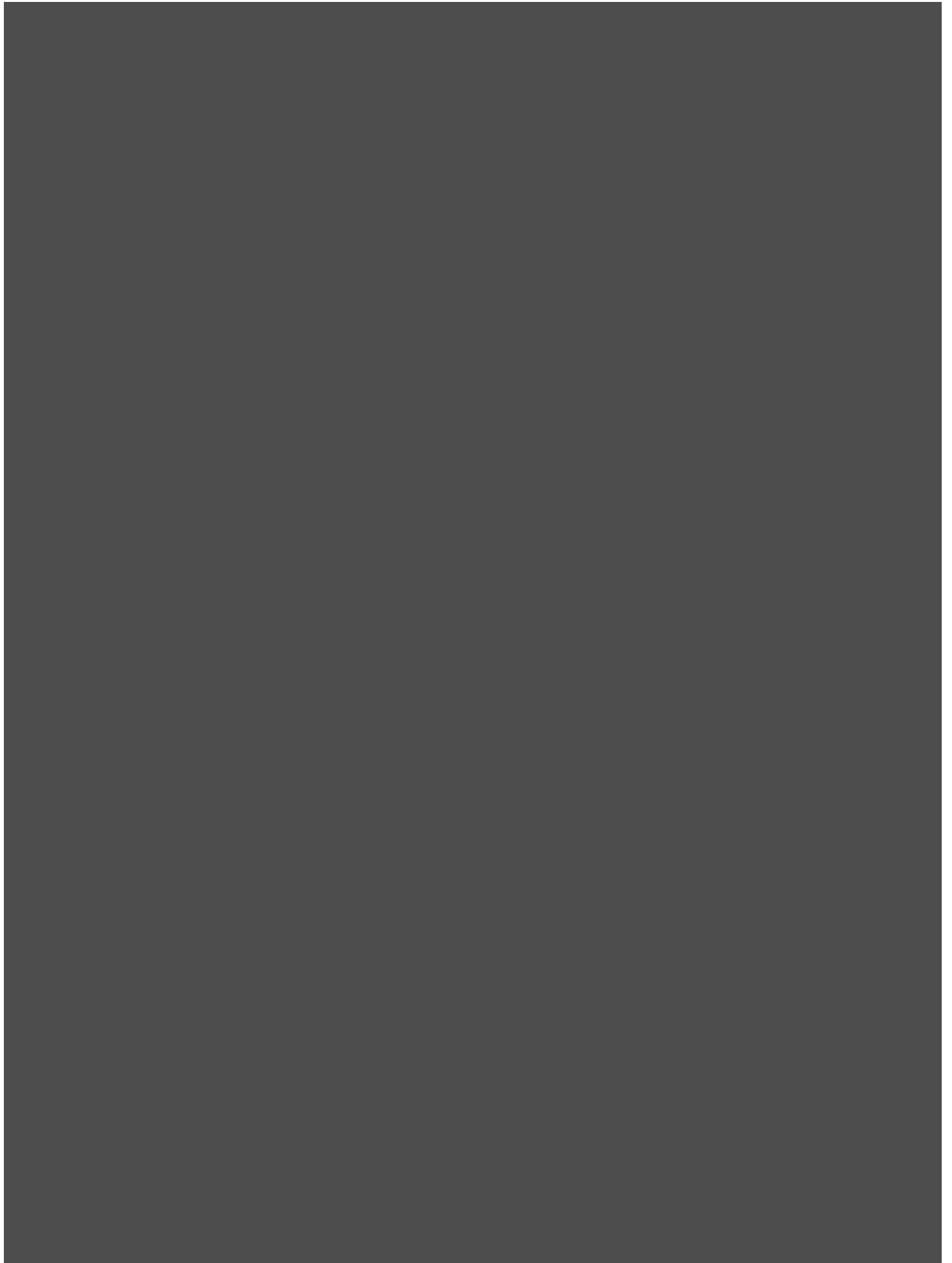
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