

Finalists Theodora Niemeijer prize 2018 announced

Isabelle Andriessen, Josefin Arnell, and Joy Mariama Smith

The jury for the fourth edition of the Theodora Niemeijer Prize, an award for emerging female artists, have announced a shortlist of three artists. The finalists are – in alphabetical order - Isabelle Andriessen, Josefin Arnell, and Joy Mariama Smith.

The winner will be announced during a ceremony in the auditorium of the Van Abbemuseum on Saturday 23 June from 3 p.m. The winning artist will develop a project in Het Oog for half a year, starting end of September 2018, and in addition receives prize money of € 10.000. The second and third place receive €2.500 and €1.500 respectively. This year the jury had to select a shortlist from 94 project proposals. For the jury, a combination of quality, daring, distinctiveness, professional development, use of space and technical feasibility was decisive.

The Theodora Niemeijer Prize was introduced in 2012 by the Stichting Niemeijer Fonds and the Van Abbemuseum because women are still a minority in exhibitions and museum collections. The prize is awarded once every two years to an artist living and working in the Netherlands who graduated at most five years ago. It is the only Dutch prize for visual arts dedicated specifically to women artists. Previous winners were Sissel Marie Tonn (2016), Sachi Myachi (2014) and Sarah van Sonsbeeck (2012).

Isabelle Andriessen

With the *Post-apocalyptic observation center* Isabelle Andriessen rises the question: when do we call something human or non-human, living or non-living? She wants to make a series of works in Het Oog that will physically interact with each other as a living system, a sculptural alien organism. These organ-sculptures will disrupt each other's behaviour over the course of the exhibition, transforming as they are fed by different energy sources such as heat, cold, moisture and electricity..

Josefin Arnell

THE TICK is a proposal by Josefin Arnell in which she would like to develop a sculpture in the shape of a monstrous giant tick that can climb on. The sculpture will work as a playground in Het Oog for the viewer to discover in a playful way a mutated scary tick. Arnell would like to develop a sensor that sends signals when climbing or sitting on the sculpture, which fills the air with sound.

Joy Mariama Smith

In performance installation *Walking in a Queer Manner Around the Perimeter of Het Oog* of Joy Mariama Smith, 3 to 5 performers walk around the perimeter of Het Oog to investigate different ambulatory expressions of queerness. On the wall videos of the process are projected and music plays in the background. Visitors are also invited to walk the perimeter of Het Oog.

Theodora Niemeijer Prize

The Theodora Niemeijer Prize is a tribute to Theodora Niemeijer (1912 -2004), the daughter of the well-known tobacco producer Niemeijer in Groningen. She was a very special character with a passion for the visual arts. In 1996 she established her own foundation with the aim of encouraging upcoming artists. She died in 2004, but the Stichting Niemeijer Fonds still exists. In 2012 the Niemeijer Fonds Foundation adopted Het Oog for a period of five

years for the sum of €100.000. In this way the museum can continue to carry out two projects a year in this space.

Winner of 2016: Sissel Marie Tonn

In 2016, Sissel Marie Tonn won the Theodora Niemeijer Prize. Her work consisted of an interactive installation that allows participants to access and experience all the earthquakes recorded in Groningen - related to the gas drilling - to date. Tonn about winning the prize: "Winning the Theodora Niemeijer prize meant the world to me. Not only was it an immense honour to be selected by a jury of women whom I admire tremendously, it was also an incredible experience working with the team at the Van Abbemuseum. Being an emerging artist I learned so much about myself, my practice and the workings of an institution like the Van Abbe. Winning the prize, and the exposure that the resulting exhibition gave me, continues to benefit my practice, and I keep getting the opportunity to exhibit the work nationally and internationally as a direct result from it."



Sissel Marie Tonn in Het Oog. Photo: Marcel de Buck.

Press release
May 2018



For the editors:

For further information and photographs see: www.vanabbemuseum.nl/en/press

Or contact:

Ilse Cornelis, Communication & Press
Telephone: +31 (0)40 238 1019
Mobile: + 31 (0)6 12995794
Email: i.cornelis@vanabbemuseum.nl

Van Abbemuseum

The Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven is one of the leading museums for contemporary art in Europe. The museum has an intensive international collection of more than 2,700 works of art, including key works by Lissitzky, Picasso, Kokoschka, Chagall, Beuys, McCarthy, Daniëls and Körmeling. Questions in the field of art and society are raised by the museum in an experimental way. An open attitude, hospitality and the exchange of information are important for the Van Abbemuseum and we encourage both ourselves and the visitors to think about different subjects, for example about the role of the collection as a cultural "memory" or about the museum as a public space. As a result of international cooperation and exchange, the Van Abbemuseum is also a place where cultural cross-pollination takes place. It is a source of wonder, inspiration and imagination.

Van Abbemuseum,
Bilderdijklaan 10, Eindhoven.
www.vanabbemuseum.nl

Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday 11.00 – 17.00. 1stThursday of the month 11.00 - 21.00.

Admission

Adults: € 12.00 / Groups of 10 or more: € 9.00 / Young people 13-18 years old, students, CJP holders, Eindhoven city pass (stadspas) holders: € 6.00/ Children under 13 years of age, Museum card: free: Tuesday 15.00 – 17.00: free.