



Press Release

Stockholm, September 2016

Nominees Announced for the 2017 Absolut Art Award

Absolut is delighted to announce the nominees for the 2017 Absolut Art Award. This year's Nominators have selected a total of 49 artists and art writers across both the Art Work and Art Writing categories, and they are diverse in terms of country of origin, age and gender.

Each member of the 2017 Jury invited two Nominators with experience across multiple artistic backgrounds to nominate five artists and one art writer, generating a maximum of 50 nominees for the Art Work category and a maximum of ten nominees for the Art Writing category.

39 nominees have been selected in the Art Work category by the 2017 Nominators. The 2017 list includes artists from emerging contemporary art hubs such as India, Ghana, Iran, South Korea and Bangladesh as well as areas with firmly-established art scenes. Nominees range in age from 24 to 52, and comprise recognised artists who are established in their field, as well as young emerging artists.

Ten art writers from across seven countries have been selected in the Art Writing category, with ranging backgrounds, experience and research interests. This element of the prize continues our longstanding support of the development of critical theory and nurturing artistic discourse.

A shortlist of five finalists from both the Art Work and Art Writing category will be revealed in January 2017, selected by the 2017 Jury – led by Jury President Daniel Birnbaum, Director of the Moderna Museet, Stockholm.

"We are thrilled by the range, calibre and diverse artistic practices of the 2017 nominees in both categories, and we look forward to the 2017 Jury's selection of the finalists in January", says Saskia Neuman, Global Art Manager, Absolut.

For 2017, Absolut launches a new strand of the Award – the Emerging Artist Award – which will sit alongside the Absolut Art Award for Art Work and Art Writing. Individuals under the age of 40 who have collaborated with the brand creatively from January 2015 to February 2017 are eligible to be nominated by their local Absolut teams. The winner of the Emerging Artist Award will be selected directly from a list of nominees by the 2017 Jury.

The winners of the three Absolut Art Award strands – Art Work, Art Writing, and Emerging Artist Award – will be announced during the Vernissage of La Biennale di Venezia – 57th International Art Exhibition in May 2017, followed by an award ceremony in September 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden.

2017 Absolut Art Award Nominees

Art Work Category

Shumon Ahmed	b.1977	Bangladesh
Mehraneh Atashi	b.1980	Iran
Monika Baer	b.1964	Germany
Neil Beloufa	b.1985	France
Katinka Bock	b.1976	Germany
Dineo Seshee Bopape	b.1981	South Africa
Sol Calero	b.1982	Venezuela
Neha Choksi	b.1973	USA
Serge Attukwei Clottey	b.1985	Ghana
Simon Denny	b.1982	New Zealand
Cao Fei	b.1978	China
Samara Golden	b.1973	USA
Irena Haiduk	b.1982	Serbia
Tamara Henderson	b.1982	Canada
Anne Imhof	b.1978	Germany
Maryam Jafri	b.1972	Pakistan
Hassan Khan	b.1975	Egypt
Yaw Brobbey Kyei	b.1991	Ghana
Ibrahim Mahama	b.1987	Ghana
Corey McCorkle	b.1969	USA
Shahryar Nashat	b.1975	Switzerland
Otobong Nkanga	b.1974	Nigeria
Katja Novitskova	b.1984	Estonia
Yuri Pattison	b.1986	Ireland
Falke Pisano	b.1978	Netherlands
Lucy Raven	b.1977	USA
Willem de Rooij	b.1969	Netherlands
Cameron Rowland	b.1988	USA

ABSOLUT.

The Absolut Company has the worldwide responsibility for the production, innovation and strategic marketing of Absolut Vodka, Malibu, Kahlúa, Wyborowa, Luksusowa and Frís. Absolut Vodka is the world's fourth largest premium spirits brand. Every bottle of Absolut Vodka is produced in Åhus, southern Sweden. Malibu is the number one rum-based coconut spirit in the world, sold in more than 150 countries. Kahlúa coffee liqueur is the world leader in its category. The head office is located in Stockholm, Sweden. The Absolut Company is a part of Pernod Ricard, which holds one of the most prestigious brand portfolios in the sector.

Nora Schultz	b.1975	Germany
Cally Spooner	b.1983	UK
Elisabeth Sutherland	b.1991	Ghana
Martine Syms	b.1988	USA
Asim Waqif	b.1978	India
Munem Wasif	b.1983	Bangladesh
Liu Wei	b.1972	China
Ming Wong	b.1971	Singapore
Haegue Yang	b.1971	South Korea
Anicka Yi	b.1971	South Korea
Samson Young	b.1979	China

Art Writing Category

Karen Archey	b. 1985	USA
Lee Weng Choy	b.1963	Malaysia / Singapore
Anna Colin	b.1981	France
Huey Copeland	b.1976	USA
Johanna Fateman	b.1974	USA
Orit Gat	b.1984	Israel
Isabelle Graw	b.1962	Germany
Ranjit Hoskote	b.1969	India
Shanay Jhaveri	b.1985	USA
Missla Libsekal	b.1975	Ethiopia

THE 2017 ABSOLUT ART AWARD JURY

2017 Jury President:

Daniel Birnbaum has been the Director of Moderna Museet, Stockholm since autumn 2010. He was the Rector of Städelschule in Frankfurt from 2000 – 2010, and Director of the Kunsthalle Portikus. He is contributing editor of *Artforum* in New York and has curated exhibitions including 'Airs de Paris' at Centre Pompidou in Paris (in co-operation with Christine Macel) in 2007. In 2009, Daniel was the Director of the 53rd Venice Biennale.

2017 Jury Members:

Simon Castets is the Director and Curator of Swiss Institute, New York and co-founder of 89plus. In addition to exhibitions at Swiss Institute, recent curatorial work includes 'Rachel Rose' at Aspen Art Museum, 'Champs Elysées' at Palais de Tokyo, Paris (with Julie Boukobza and Nicola Trezzi), 'Poetry will be made by all!' at Moderna Museet, Stockholm, and 'Filter Bubble' at LUMA Foundation, Westbau (both together with Hans Ulrich Obrist for 89plus).

Elena Filipovic is Director and Chief Curator of Kunsthalle Basel. She was Senior Curator at WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels from 2009-2014, and in 2008 co-curated the 5th Berlin Biennial with Adam Szymczyk.

ABSOLUT.

Polly Staple has been Director of Chisenhale Gallery, London since 2008. She was formerly Director of Frieze Projects and Curator at Cubitt Gallery, London. Staple has written for numerous catalogues and publications; she was formerly Editor-at-Large of *frieze* magazine.

Jack Bankowsky is a critic, curator, and Editor-at-Large at *Artforum*. He served as Editor-in-Chief of *Artforum* from 1992 to 2003, and is the founding editor of *Artforum's* sister publication, *Bookforum*, where he was editor from 1996 to 1998.

2017 Absolut Art Award Nominators:

Philippe Pirotte, Director of the Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste - Städelschule and of the Kunsthalle Portikus, Germany

Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York

Nana Oforiatta-Ayim, writer, filmmaker, and cultural historian based in Accra, Ghana

Venus Lau, Artistic Director of OCAT Shenzhen and Beijing

François Quintin, Managing Director, Fondation d'entreprise Galeries Lafayette

Solveig Øvstebø, Executive Director and Chief Curator, Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago

Bart van der Heide, Chief Curator, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

Diana Campbell Betancourt, Artistic Director, Samdani Art Foundation and Chief Curator of the Dhaka Art Summit

Sohrab Mohebbi, Associate Curator, REDCAT

Michelle Kuo, Editor in Chief, *Artforum*

Notes to the editor:

Absolut and Art

The first spirit brand to forge genuinely close ties with art and artists, Absolut has been active in the art world since 1985, when it invited Andy Warhol to create the first in a series of iconic advertisements inspired by the Absolut bottle. Since then, Absolut has collaborated with more than 550 artists on over 850 commissioned projects. Today, Absolut supports acclaimed artists, art writers and institutions in their efforts to present new works, stimulate ideas, bring people together and broaden access to creativity.

The Absolut Art Award

The Absolut Art Award was instituted in 2009 to mark 30 years of creative collaborations with artists. The award offers an artist and an art writer a unique opportunity to realise their dream projects, demonstrating our continued commitment to collaborating on transformative projects with the world's most creative talent. The winning artist will receive a cash prize of €20,000, complemented by a budget of €100,000 to produce and exhibit a new art work. The winning art writer will also be awarded a cash prize of €20,000, alongside a budget of €25,000 to be used towards the research and production of a new art publication. The Emerging Art Award winner will

ABSOLUT.

receive a cash prize of €20,000, along with a budget of €25,000 to realise their winning project or art work in their region.

In 2015, the Absolut Art Award for Art Work was awarded to Frances Stark, and to Mark Godfrey for Art Writing. Frances is working on a pedagogical opera of Mozart's 'The Magic Flute' which will premiere in autumn 2016, and Mark Godfrey is editing an anthology dedicated to 'The Black Art Debate' and African-American art in the 1960s and 70s.

The 2013 Absolut Art Award winners were Renata Lucas for Art Work and Coco Fusco for Art Writing. Renata Lucas created a series of site-specific architectural interventions and installations located throughout the Pier Mauá area of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, unveiled in September 2014. For the Award for Art Writing, Coco Fusco's book *Dangerous Moves: Performance and Politics in Cuba* was released in October 2015 in collaboration with Tate Publishing.

Absolut continues to offer artists and writers a global platform through artist collaborations, most recently through a number of ambitious site-specific Art Bar installations. Previous collaborations include Jeremy Shaw on *Kirlian* (2012) and Mickalene Thomas on *Better Days* (2013) at Art Basel; Los Carpinteros on *Güiro* (2012) and Ry Rocklen (2013) on *Night Court* at Art Basel in Miami Beach; Adrian Wong on *Wun Dun* (2013), Nadim Abbas' *Apocalypse Postponed* (2014) and Guru Jimmy (2016) in Hong Kong; Olafur Eliasson on *Little Sun* (2014) at Coachella; artist collective Caravan (2014) and Yazan Khalili (2015) at Art Dubai; John Kørner at Chart Art Fair (2015); Sangree at Material Art Fair (2016); Michele Ormas at Kölner Liste (2016); and Seth Troxler and RUN in Ibiza (2016). In September 2015 Ilja Karilampi created *President Room* during the Absolut Art Award ceremony.

www.absolut.com

#AbsolutArtAward

@AbsolutVodka

For further information about the 2017 Absolut Art Award please contact:

Abigail Varian

SUTTON

Abigail@suttonpr.com

+44 20 7183 3577

ABSOLUT.

The Absolut Company has the worldwide responsibility for the production, innovation and strategic marketing of Absolut Vodka, Malibu, Kahlúa, Wyborowa, Luksusowa and Frís. Absolut Vodka is the world's fourth largest premium spirits brand. Every bottle of Absolut Vodka is produced in Åhus, southern Sweden. Malibu is the number one rum-based coconut spirit in the world, sold in more than 150 countries. Kahlúa coffee liqueur is the world leader in its category. The head office is located in Stockholm, Sweden. The Absolut Company is a part of Pernod Ricard, which holds one of the most prestigious brand portfolios in the sector.