

PRESS

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THE ARMORY SHOW ANNOUNCES THE 2021 RECIPIENTS OF THE THIRD ANNUAL POMMERY PRIZE AND THE FIFTH ANNUAL ARMORY PRESENTS BOOTH PRIZE

MICHAEL RAKOWITZ PRESENTED BY JANE LOMBARD GALLERY IN THE PLATFORM SECTION OF THE FAIR RECEIVED THE POMMERY PRIZE, WHILE MOSLEM KHEZRI FEATURED BY SARADIPOUR ART FROM THE PRESENTS SECTION WON THE ARMORY PRESENTS BOOTH PRIZE

New York – During today’s VIP opening of The Armory Show at the Javits Center, the fair and its partners Pommery Champagne and Yieldstreet x Athena Art Finance announced the winners of two prizes to exhibitor presentations in the Platform and Presents sections of the fair.

POMMERY PRIZE

Supported by Pommery Champagne, the annual **Pommery Prize** of \$20,000 was awarded to **Jane Lombard Gallery** (New York) for its presentation of *The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist, Room F, Section 1, Northwest Palace of Nimrud* (2019) by Michael Rakowitz. Now in its third year, the Pommery Prize recognizes an outstanding presentation of large-scale artwork from the Platform section at The Armory Show. The jury for the prize included **Corinne Erni**, Senior Curator of ArtsReach and Special Projects, Parrish Art Museum, Watermill, New York; **Sohrab Mohebbi**, Kathe and Jim Patrinos Curator of the 58th Carnegie International and Curator-at-Large at SculptureCenter, New York; **Mailys Vranken**, President of Vranken Pommery America; and **Pauline Vranken**, Director, Vranken-Pommery Monopole S.A. Previous winners of the prize include **Night Gallery** (Los Angeles) for their exhibition of **Christine Wang’s Meme Girl** in 2022 and **Lisson Gallery** (New York) for their presentation of **Ryan Gander’s Het Spel** (*My neotonic ovoid contribution to Modernism*) in 2019.

Claudia Schmuckli, Curator-in-Charge of Contemporary Art and Programming, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, is the curator of the Platform section at this year’s edition of The Armory Show. Titled *Can you hear the fault lines breathing?*, the section

features eight large-scale installations and site-specific works selected by Schmuckli, which explore the urgent need to find new models for bridging societal, historical, and geographical divisions.

Michael Rakowitz is one of several artists who imagine a restorative future through looking at the past. *The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist, Room F, Section 1, Northwest Palace of Nimrud* (2019) recreates stone carved panels from a banquet hall in the historic Palace of Nimrud that were destroyed by ISIS or went “missing” in vibrant collages of middle eastern food packaging. While addressing the longstanding conflict within the Middle East, it also aims to engage with a history of the region that goes beyond the prevailing narrative of conflict to create a diasporic historical continuity that points toward a more survivable intersectional future.

In addition to the monetary reward, the winning artist of the Pommery Prize may have the opportunity to create a new work for an exhibition at Pommery Champagne’s domain in Reims, France. The Pommery Prize pays homage to Madame Pommery’s love for the arts, continuing a tradition that started in 1882 when Madame Pommery commissioned French sculptor Gustav Navlet to create four sculptures for the cellars of the producer’s estate. Each year since 2002, Pommery has opened the Gallo-Roman cellars to be used as a platform for artists to express their talents and create unique works of art for an “Experience Pommery” exhibition in September.

ARMORY PRESENTS BOOTH PRIZE

Today also saw the awarding of the **Armory Presents Booth Prize** to **SARADIPOUR Art** (Tehran) for their presentation of *We Keep Reviewing* (2019 – 2020) by Moslem Khezri. Supported for the fifth consecutive year by Armory Show sponsor Yieldstreet x Athena Art Finance, this prize is given to an exceptional and innovative presentation from the **Presents** section of the fair. SARADIPOUR Art received a prize equal to their cost of participating in the fair. Jurors for the prize include **Elisabeth Karpidas**, Executive Director, Karpidas Family Foundation; **Ari Mir**, CEO and Co-Founder, Clutter and collector; **Cynthia Sachs**, Managing Director/CIO, Yieldstreet x Athena Art Finance; and **Komal Shah**, collector and philanthropist.

Past winners include **Upfor** (Portland) for its exhibition of work by Julie Green in 2020, **Charlie James Gallery’s** (Los Angeles) presentation of Sadie Barnette in 2019; **blank projects** (Cape Town), who exhibited Igshaan Adams and Cinga Samson in 2018, and **Mariane Ibrahim** (Chicago), who exhibited Zohra Opoku in 2017.

Presents showcases emerging galleries that are no more than fifteen years old, featuring solo-and-dual artist exhibitions of recent work. This year saw works exhibited on themes ranging from the impact of COVID-19 to issues of identity and colonialism. *We Keep Reviewing* by **Moslem Khezri** presents a series of scenes from an all-boys school in Iran with all its similarities and peculiarities, with Khezri as the invisible teacher of the classrooms. The work invites viewers to revisit the familiar, nostalgic, and contradictory elements of a school environment.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Armory Show

The Armory Show is New York's art fair and has been an essential part of the city's cultural landscape since 1994. A dedicated member of the art community, we promote profitable exchange and facilitate meaningful discovery. The Armory Show presents the world's leading international galleries who showcase an array of modern and contemporary art and artists.

The Armory Show 2021 will launch the fall arts season and bring the international art world to New York for the inaugural edition at its new location at the Javits Center in September. The VIP Preview for the 2021 fair will take place on September 9, before opening to the public from September 10-12.

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