

JURY REPORT BEST OF GRADUATES 2016

Looking back on the expositions at the art academies, Radek Vana, Ron Mandos and his team have once again seen high quality work and found gems during the annual scout round for the Best of Graduates.

In previous years, the triad of the HKU, Gerrit Rietveld Academy and KABK proved untouchable. Now in 2016 this has changed. The HKU was with a lot of spatial work very exciting, but as usual we did not find many painters here. The Rietveld is always ambitious but a lot of work that was on display turned out to be too indecisive for the shortlist. The KABK had good Visual Arts students but But rather unexpectedly, we were unable to find the fascinating, unique artists we were looking for in the photography department. The quality of the academies outside the Randstad has resulted in a wide selection of 25 young talents.

It was also striking, with the exception of the Rietveld, that there was remarkably few video art on display this year. Also surprising was the absence of major social and global political themes of the present time. Thought, plenty of works showed an honest reflection of their own life and experience. In conclusion, the jury would like to compliment the Rotterdam WdKA. Here, the students were challenged to confront their story with the world outside the academic walls in a refreshing way.

PHOTO TALENT AWARD

This prize was specially created in response to Unseen 'a fair with a festival flair'. This fair, revolving around photography will take place in September at the Westergasterrein in Amsterdam. The winner will be presented in the Galerie Ron Mandos booth. It has been a battle between Robin Aysha Clemens, Adrianna Dielemann and Marianne van der Burgt.

This year we chose an artist with a sense she has possessed since as early as 10 years old.. She uses the medium of photography as it has been used for decades. Her work also seems to have been stored somewhere in a filing cabinet for years, while the Toyobo technique that is used is only six years old. The photo talent of the Best of Graduates 2016 was won by the creator of Being in the Landscape: Adrianna Dieleman.

PUBLIC'S CHOICE AWARD

During the opening we welcomed 600 people and this summer the exhibition was well attended by many curious students, collectors, journalists and curators. All visitors were asked to make their choice for their "one and only." We are sure that not all visitors have seen the work inside; but those who have voted emphatically. By far the most votes went to this artist. The crowd's favorite this year is Jonathan Straatman!

RON MANDOS YOUNG BLOOD AWARD 2016

At the 11 Dutch academies we see many hundreds of works by recent graduates, of which a longlist with 80 names is discussed by the jury of the Best of Graduates. This year we arrived at a selection of 25 talents.

The jury would like to make special mention of the following artists:

- With his work, Nasbami evokes associations of painting from the 50s and 80s. Nasbami anchors his work in our current object culture with playful and formal experiments.
- Rosanne Jonkhout creates fascinating collages with found images and text material. The work confronts the complexity of human emotions and existence on a higher level.
- Romee van Oers is a painter. With her poetic approach, Oers translates small everyday things into the abstract.
- Benjamin Harpsøe shows a juxtaposition between devices and ancient natural elements. The Meeting Point of Two Bodies of Water 1-2 shows the human complexities between the worlds of technology and spirituality
- Jonathan Straatman forces us to let us experience his own mental space by means of the architectural intervention. Those who step inside experience a strange combination of safety and claustrophobia at the same time.
- Luca Asta already has a varied oeuvre in which physicality dominates. Through his use of sensual materials, he challenges the viewer's sense of touch. Asta refers to art history and the long cultural tradition of its relationship to the human body.

- Dennis Molema innovates in a surprising way. In his work he aims to revive important temporary projects from art history and even add a new dimension to them.

The jury has been discussing the ultimate winner a lot. It was a close battle between the artist with a varied oeuvre and the poetic painter. We will therefore follow both closely.

The winner of the Ron Mandos Young Blood award 2016 is Luca Asta!