

Press Release

Launch of New Prize for the Creation of Art Projects

Call for Submissions for the “Hannes Malte Mahler – it is art®“ Art Award begins on April 1 2020.

The Association for Fine Arts, “feinkunst e.V.”, launches the “Hannes Malte Mahler – it is art“ prize and invites artists to apply. Every four years, on 29 February, the prize is to be awarded to the winning proposal for an art project, which is financed by the award’s project fund and subsequently presented in Hanover. In keeping with the artistic concept of the eponymous artist Hannes Malte Mahler (1968 – 2016), applications from any genre of art are welcome. The prize money consists of a cash award of € 15,000 and a project and production fund of up to € 105,000. An independent judging panel will select the winner. The first award winner will be announced on the fifth anniversary of Hannes Malte Mahler’s death on 18 July 2021, during a commemorative charity concert with Igor Levit. Applications can be submitted from April 1 to September 30 2020.

The non-profit association “feinkunst e.V.” will award the “Hannes Malte Mahler – it is art“ prize every four years, with the winner announced on 29 February. The award is given for the proposal of an art project and includes a production budget enabling the artist to realise this venture in Hanover. Hence, the award’s founders’ aim is to give new impetus for Hanover as a location for the arts, while at the same time remembering the artist Hannes Malte Mahler. Until his untimely death in 2016, Mahler had very much enriched the art scene of his hometown and the region with his genre-spanning work.

“Hannes Malte Mahler’s way of working was characterised by his talent for networking and collaborating with other artists and various cultural institutions. His death left a painful gap in Hanover’s cultural scene. Donating this award in his name does not only honour his exceptional work as an artist, but also his involvement in and his affection for his native city,” explains Oliver Rohde, chair of feinkunst e.V., to whom, together with Prof. Dr Johanna Hey, Mahler’s artistic estate was bequeathed.

Artists can apply for the “Hannes Malte Mahler – it ist art” prize, regardless of gender, age or nationality. Entrants should have completed a course of training in the arts or have a documented

longstanding professional career as an artist. Applicants should develop an outline for an artistic project which – following Mahler’s stance – transcends the classical boundaries between different genres of art. Any medium may be used: entries could be a sculptural intervention in public space, an exhibition, a film or video installation or a performance – in all competition entries Mahler’s concept of art should be in evidence, developed or elaborated on.

The prize money amounts to € 15,000 for the winner’s personal use, as well as up to € 105,000 for implementing the winning project. Feinkunst e.V. provides the funds through donations and the income generated by a charity concert. An independent panel of expert judges will select the winner after the deadline for applications. On 18 July 2021, the first award winner will be announced at a benefit concert curated by Igor Levit. If the final project is to be presented in a museum, the Sprengel Museum Hannover is available as a possible partner. However, the chosen project could also be an intervention, event or performance in public space. We are in an exchange with the state capital of Hanover and a close involvement is planned.

Launching this art prize, the feinkunst association aims not only to provide an attractive platform for award winners to present their art concepts, but also to give an outstanding impetus to the Hanover art scene of Hanover, which was always close to Mahler’s heart.

The association

The non-profit association Feinkunst e.V. was founded in 2017 to manage the artistic estate of Hannes Malte Mahler, who died in a bicycle accident on 18 July 2016. The purpose of the association is to preserve the multi-faceted artist’s oeuvre and make it accessible to the public. Apart from creating a catalogue raisonné, the association has been offering its space of around 250 m² to a considerable number of exhibitions, which have not only presented Mahler’s works from the archives, but also those by various artists with a Hanover connection. Furthermore, it has been possible to establish a permanent cooperation with the Sprengel Museum Hannover, through which annually a trainee curator from the museum organises a show with an up-and-coming artist at the feinkunst premises. Since 2018, the rooms have also hosted exhibitions by SCOPE Hannover, an association dedicated to promoting photography and new media.

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FACT SHEET

THE AWARD

To enter the competition, applicants will submit a proposal for an art work of any genre, whether painting, sculpture, photography, video or performance. The project should in some way reflect Hannes Malte Mahler's expansive concept of art (see characterization of his oeuvre).

The finished project will be presented in Hanover.

The prize money consists of a cash award for the artist as well as a project fund available for implementing the project.

AWARD PROCEDURE

Applications are open to artists regardless of age, gender, nationality or any other qualifications. The only condition is a completed course of training in the Fine Arts or a documented longstanding professional career. The prize will be given for generating a work of art which should reflect or elaborate on the genre-spanning concept of art evident in Hannes Malte Mahler's oeuvre. The award consists of a cash prize as well as a presentation of the project in Hanover, possibly in the Sprengel Museum Hannover. It will be awarded every four years on 29 February (the first award the end of 2020). The first winning project will be presented to the public between autumn 2022 and spring 2023.

THE JURY

The entries will be judged by a jury of experts from the world of art and culture.

Members of the 2020 jury are:

Professor Stephan Berg, Director of the Kunstmuseum Bonn

Professor Anne-Marie Bonnet, Professor at Bonn University

Professor Wolfgang Ellenrieder, Professor at Braunschweig University of Art

Noor Mertens, Head and Managing Director of Kunstverein Langenhagen

Dr Reinhard Spieler, Director Sprengel Museum Hannover

The state capital of Hanover is expected to provide another member of the jury.

The award winner will be announced at the memorial benefit concert with Igor Levit on 18 July 2021.

PRIZE MONEY

Cash award: 15,000 €

Available project fund: up to 105,000 €

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Applicants can submit their entries online from 1 April 2020 until 30 September 2020 following this link:

www.feinkunst.org/kunstpreis

The following documents must be included:

- artist's CV in tabular form (education, exhibitions, publications, awards)
- brief characterization of the artist's own concept of art and their work to date
- outline of the proposed project (including e.g. descriptions, photos, sketches)
- outline of timings and costs involved in implementing the proposed project

Detailed information on the required documents from April 1 2020 on the domain:

www.feinkunst.org/kunstpreis

For further information contact feinkunst: +49 511 - 38 87 96 22 or info@feinkunst.org

TIMINGS FOR THE FIRST AWARD

Submission period: 1 April – 30 September 2020

18 July 2021: Public announcement of the award winner and benefit concert with Igor Levit

End of 2022 until middle of 2023: Presentation of the award-winning project in Hanover

HANNES MALTE MAHLER – a short biography

10 June 1968	born in Hanover
1987 – 91	interdisciplinary studies, Freie Universität Berlin (business studies, law and history)
1991 – 92	community service as paramedic
1992 – 99	studies Fine Arts at HBK Braunschweig (University of Art); amongst Mahler's professors were Siegfried Neuenhausen, Lienhard von Monkiewitsch and Marina Abramović, whose master student he became; diploma in 1999 with distinction
2000	art scholarship of the state of Lower Saxony
2001	<i>marking the territory</i> , Moma, Dublin, Ireland
since 2001	<i>glitterballshooting</i> , at various locations (catalogue from Düsseldorf, 2007)
2002	founded <i>feinkunst</i> – design agency
2002	<i>don</i> , Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas (USA)
2003	<i>Die Büchse knallt im Deutschen Wald</i> (The Gun Bangs in the German Forest), Kunstverein Hanover
2003, 2006, 2010	Autumn Exhibition of artists from Lower Saxony, Kunstverein Hannover
2003	<i>Private domain</i> , Galerie Robert Drees, Hanover
from 2003	teaching graphics and media at the fahmoda Hannover
from 2004	co-curating (with Hartmut Stielow) the biennial exhibition „Neue Kunst in alten Gärten“ (New art in old gardens, Lenthe)
2005	<i>private domain # confessional</i> , Mönchehaus Museum, Goslar
2005	<i>Zug um Zug (step by step)</i> , Sparda-Bank art prize
2005	<i>protocol</i> , ipad drawings for the German Protestant Church Congress, Hanover
2006	<i>private domain # studio</i> , Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin (catalogue)
2006	<i>Glauben und Wissen</i> (Faith and Knowledge), Galerie der Künstler, München
2007	<i>rummel. Das größte Schützenfest der Welt</i> (The World's Largest Shooting Festival) with Alexander Steig und Jürgen Witte, Städtische Galerie KUBUS, Hanover (catalogue); <i>rummel rehearsal</i> , Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen
2008	<i>zeichnend. das Graphische Werk 1988–2008</i> , (drawing. the graphic work) Bonn University Department of Art History (catalogue, ed. by Anne-Marie Bonnet)
2009	Weserburg Museum for Modern Art, Bremen
2012	<i>Sprengpunkte und Haftpunkte</i> , Bonn University;
2013	Schloss Salder, Salzgitter (catalogue)
2014	<i>Frauen im Freien (Females in the Fields)</i> , Galerie für Fotografie, Hanover (catalogue)
2015	<i>Mont St. Victoire</i> , Bonn University Department of Art History
2015	Autumn Exhibition of artists from Lower Saxony, Kunstverein Hannover
2016	<i>Die Erinnerung der Arbeit – Aus den Städtischen Sammlungen</i> , (the memory of work – from the municipal collections) Schloss Salder, Salzgitter
18 Juli 2016	Mahler dies at the age of 48 in a cycling accident near Hanover

Characterization of Hannes Malte Mahler's Oeuvre

How does one track down someone who has left so many tracks that initially it seems just a multitudinous tangle? Perhaps only by first acknowledging that this polyphony cannot actually be condensed into a single core. Hannes Malte Mahler, who once began his career as a master student with Marina Abramović at the HBK Braunschweig, was highly expansive in his entire artistic work. He, the draughtsman, performer, painter, installation artist and inventor of ideas, was always more than the sum of all these parts, and he was fundamentally limitless in his quest to transform his entire world into a Mahler universe.

One axis of this universe was his conviction that art was far too important to be practised solely in the narrow field of pure art. Shortly before his untimely and tragic death, he formulated his credo as follows: "This Mahler essentially consists of three parts: Art, design and marketing. These worlds are connected by drawing". The ease with which HM Mahler changed the boundaries between these spheres was breath-taking.

With similar ease, he created '*Mahlerwear*', his own fashion line, as well as offering himself as a commissioned draughtsman with his *private domain* performance, ironically questioning the hierarchies between client and author. In the same breath, he organised his annual *glitter ball shootings*. The performance event is not just about shooting at the baubles on a Christmas tree with an air rifle, but it rather scrutinises whether our faith in Christmas has degenerated into nothing but a formal ritual.

Dazzling and ambivalent, appealing and ambiguous, this is how Hannes Malte Mahler's work could be characterised. The themes of his works revolve around being human in today's world and what an artist can or should contribute to it. The cosmos of his visual world can be described as a contemporary '*comédie humaine*' and indeed Hannes Malte Mahler had something of a contemporary Balzac. He was a bon vivant who knew how to enjoy life and a keen observer of the actions of his fellow human beings.

He wasn't just concerned with extending art into life, but also and more importantly, he was interested in creating a brand, in 'mahlerising' the world with all means available and with an acute sense for the necessary pinch of self-irony such a project needs to avoid ending up as plain hubris.

He himself recognised that his sharpest sword was drawing, which could be comic, laconic, melancholic, screamingly loud and squeakily colourful, and then again of extreme delicacy and devotion. He could caricature what he saw with a deadly pen, but he could also trace it with great tenderness and sympathy. His continuous drawing grasped the world around him and brought it to Mahler's contour, as well as holding up a compassionate mirror to the world: a mirror in which everything appeared distant, but thereby became closer and more precise.

Hannes Malte Mahler seduced us into a re-vision of our expectations and ideas of what drawing, painting and art should be, as well as what to expect from the world. With his work, however, he also gives us the impulse not only to expect something but also to think about what we – following his dazzling example – can contribute to the world.

written by Prof. Dr Stephan Berg / Prof. Dr Anne-Marie Bonnet

Hannes Malte Mahler – it is art® Prize

Captions

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For information and to obtain images for download: <http://www.feinkunst.org/presse.html>

	<p>01 Kunstpreis HMM</p> <p>Wort-Bildmarke Kunstpreis „Hannes Malte Mahler – it is art®“</p>
	<p>02 Kunstpreis HMM</p> <p>Porträt Hannes Malte Mahler Foto: Birgit Streicher</p>
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