

Hanover, 23. March 2023

Press Release

The Art Award “Hannes Malte Mahler – it is art ®” is entering the second round. The international call for submissions begins on 1 April 2023.

The second edition of the race for the international art award “HANNES MALTE MAHLER – it is art®” is starting. Every four years, the Association for Fine Arts, “feinkunst e.V.” awards the prize to a project proposal which transcends the classical boundaries between different genres of art, in keeping with the artistic concept of Hannes Malte Mahler (1968 - 2016). The prize money consists of a cash award of € 15,000. Additionally, feinkunst has set aside a project and production fund of up to € 105,000 for implementing the proposal and for presenting the project in Hanover. Submissions can be entered online from 1 April until 30 September.

An independent jury of experts will select a project and announce the winner on 29 February 2024.

The first award winner was the internationally active performance artist Simon Pfeffel, who enriched Hanover by showing a great variety of artistic interventions within his project “100daysofperformances”.

The detailed call for submissions and the portal for applications can be found here: www.feinkunst.org/de/kunstpreis

By honouring an extraordinary artistic position, the prize is intended to give a new impetus to Hanover as location for the arts, while at the same time commemorating the artist Hannes Malte Mahler (1968 – 2016). Until his untimely death, Mahler had very much enriched the art scene of his hometown and the region with his genre-spanning work.

Artists can apply regardless of gender, age or nationality. The only requirement is that applicants must 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.

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 interventions, events or performances in public space in cooperation with the City of Hanover.

“Last year, we could join the 2020 award winner Simon Pfeffel during his project “100daysofperformances” on 100 consecutive days and suffer, laugh, discuss, scream and doubt with him, and so much more, all directly on the streets of Hanover and often when we least expected it. Giving such extraordinary projects a chance to be realised is the true purpose of our award. We are very much looking forward to all the varied and daring project proposals of all different genres!” (Oliver Rohde, Chair of feinkunst e.V.)

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 other artists. Despite its rather short existence, feinkunst e.V. can boast a varied array of exhibitions. Moreover, a permanent cooperation with the Sprengel Museum Hannover could be established through which every year a trainee curator from the museum had the chance to organise a show with up-and-coming artists at the feinkunst premises. In addition to that, fellow artists of Hannes Malte Mahler's are presented in the series companions^{HMM}, most recently Alexander Steig and Timm Ulrichs.

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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 characterisation 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 and nationality. The only condition is a completed course of training in the Fine Arts or a documented longstanding professional career in the arts. 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 winning project will be presented to the public in 2026.

From the submissions, a jury of experts will choose a shortlist of six to eight project proposals. The selection will be displayed to the public at the exhibition space of feinkunst e.V. for the duration of four weeks, starting from 28 February 2024.

The jury will reach its final decision on the premises of feinkunst e.V. on 29 February and the winner will be publicly announced.

THE JURY

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

Members of the 2024 jury are:

Konstanze Beckedorf (Director of Culture of the City of Hanover)

Professor Dr Stephan Berg (Director of Kunstmuseum Bonn)

Professor emerita Dr Anne-Marie Bonnet (Bonn University)

Professor Wolfgang Ellenrieder (Braunschweig University of Art)

Dr Reinhard Spieler (Director of Sprengel Museum Hannover)

Paula Schwerdtfeger (Art historian and curator, Hannover)

Simon Pfeffel (International performance-artist and award winner 2020, Pforzheim)

The award winner will be publicly announced on 29 February 2024.

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 2023 until 30 September 2023 via this link:

<https://www.feinkunst.org/en/bewerbung/>

The following documents must be included:

- artist's CV in tabular form (education, exhibitions, publications, awards)
- brief characterisation 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

For detailed information about the necessary documents visit:

<https://www.feinkunst.org/en/kunstpreis/>

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

TIME SCHEDULE

Submission period: 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023

29 February 2024: Public announcement of the award winner

Exhibition of the shortlisted projects: 28 February – 28 March 2024

2026: Award ceremony / 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

Characterisation 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 breathtaking.

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® Art Prize

Captions

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



01 Kunstpreis HMM

Wort-Bildmarke Kunstpreis „Hannes Malte Mahler – it is art“®



02 Kunstpreis HMM

Porträt Hannes Malte Mahler
Foto: Birgit Streicher



03 Kunstpreis HMM

Porträt Hannes Malte Mahler
Foto: Birgit Streicher