



October 1st, 2006

Starting with 2007 the "Kunstwerft" and the "basis wien" bestow the biennial Art Critics Award, the only prize for art criticism in Austria. The focus is on awarding a cash prize to a single art critic who showed outstanding achievements in his field. Additionally, a sponsorship prize is awarded to an aspiring critic, who has not yet published his texts.

In a reversal of roles the jury consists of visual artists who judge and select the critics.

1. Participation

During a three month period of time, starting with October 1st 2006, German-language exhibition reviews with relevance for art production and reception in Austria are being collected and put into archives. Texts about solo and group exhibitions of contemporary art in Austrian galleries, museums and artist-run-spaces are considered. The list of observed media contains German-language daily newspapers, magazines and Online-magazines and is published on the website www.artcriticsaward.com.

The reviews are collected in an independent media observation, which determines the status quo of the national art reporting. The media observation is run by the "basis wien". An invitation to support this project is being sent to the particular editorial offices. Media that are not included in our investigation may send an application.

For the introduction of the prize the media observation replaces the usual application process to define the status quo of Austrian art criticism. Like critics visit publicly accessible exhibitions the artists here judge only published texts.

In addition to that a Junior Award is bestowed to an author who has not yet or only rarely published his texts or maybe only in hardly accessible media. Applicants choose one out of seven exhibitions spread over Austria (for the details see website) and are invited to send a review for a fictitious art magazine with max. 3.500 signs. Letters of application are welcome from November 1st until December 31st 2006, and should be sent to artcriticsaward@basis-wien.at Please download the application sheet on the website.

2. Award

The Senior Art Critics Award includes prize money of 3.000.- EURO.

The Junior Art Critics Award offers a unique possibility for the winner, who can publish four texts in four different art magazines, what is guaranteed through cooperation with springerin, spike, Kunst-Bulletin and artmagazine.cc. The winner will work together with the editorial offices of the art magazines for these texts and receives as a payment 750.- EURO from the organizing institutions Kunstwerft and basis wien.

Sponsors: City of Vienna (Stadt Wien Kultur) / University of Applied Arts Vienna (die Angewandte)

3. Jury

The committee consists of five well-known Austrian artists, their names will be published on the first press conference.

A detailed explanation for the selection of the award winners will be published.

4. Schedule

The press conference takes place and the competition is made public by October 9th, 2006, 5 p.m. at Werftgalerie, Zieglergasse 40/Ecke Westbahnstrasse, 1070 Vienna.

From October 1st until December 31st 2006 the above mentioned exhibition reviews, published exclusively during this period of time, are collected by the "basis wien". From November 1st until December 31st applications for the Upcoming Critic Award can be sent in. Afterwards the material is transmitted to the various members of the jury. The conference takes place six weeks later.

The ceremonious presentation of the awards is publicly being held in Vienna in spring 2007.

5. Contact

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Short Background Information

The Artist Association "Kunstwerft"

The Kunstwerft was founded 2004 as an operating base and studio for artists of different media. Especially the "Werftgalerie" became well-known with the installation of the first art-flap ("Kunstklappe") in the public space of Cologne and Vienna, where art robbers can dispose of their stolen art-pieces anonymously. Various exhibition openings took place in the own Artist-Run-Space and invitations from various institutions (Essl Collection, Kunstraum 21 Köln, Cologne Fine Arts, etc) followed. Organized by visual artist Moussa Kone and author Erwin Uhrmann. More information on www.werftgalerie.at (fine arts projects) or www.kunstwerft.at (association)

The "basis wien"

basis wien, responsible for the media-observation in this project, is a documentation centre, archive and the most extensive database on contemporary art in and from Austria in national as well as international context. Materials on art production, presentation and reception are compiled in analogue and digital form and made accessible as an online database. www.basis-wien.at

Aims of the Art Critics Award

The biennial prize for art criticism should become established in the Austrian art scene. The reputation linked to receiving the ACA shall rise due to its well-founded review and the transparent procedure. The Art Critics Award serves as stimulation for the Austrian art criticism.

In addition to the Senior Art Critics Award for a professional art critic, the Junior Art Critics Award offers a unique possibility for emerging critics. They get paid for four reviews, that will be published in four different art magazines, and collect their first experiences in dealing with editorial offices.

For the introduction of the Senior Art Critics Award the media observation replaces the usual application procedure to define the actual status quo of Austrian art criticism. Like critics visit publicly accessible exhibition spaces, here the artists judge published reviews.

Idea and Concept

Moussa Kone works in his drawings on the relations between art and theory or art production and reception. This occupation and the fact, that young artists are always confronted with various competitions, lead to the development of this concept. More information www.moussakone.com