

Press Release: Nam June Paik Award 2018**Shortlist announced**

This year, the Kunststiftung NRW is presenting its international media art prize – the Nam June Paik Award – for the ninth time. Staged every two years, the competition takes place in conjunction with a designated art institution in North Rhine-Westphalia. The Westfälische Kunstverein in Münster has been selected as project partner for the forthcoming presentation of the award and will host the exhibition featuring the nominated artists in November.

Artworks by the five nominees – selected by a panel of experts comprising Kristina Scepaniski, Director of the Westfälischer Kunstverein, Hanne Mugaas, Director of the Kunsthall Stavanger in Norway and Anne-Claire Schmitz, founding director of the art space La Loge in Brussels – will be on display in the Westfälischer Kunstverein from 10 November 2018 until 3 February 2019. The Nam June Paik Award specifically honours artworks that push boundaries, bridge cultural divides and are transdisciplinary in approach, very much in the spirit of Nam June Paik's pioneering practice.

The nominees are **Andreas Angelidakis** (b. 1968, GR, lives in Athens), **Melanie Bonajo** (b. 1978, NL, lives in Amsterdam), **Antoine Catala** (b. 1975, F, lives in New York), **Hanne Lippard** (b. 1984, GB, nationality NO, lives in Berlin) and **Sondra Perry** (b. 1986, US, lives in New York).

The Secretary General of the Kunststiftung NRW, Dr Ursula Sinnreich is excited about the diversity of the individual approaches of the nominees: “In the case of the Nam June Paik Award, it has also always been our aim to take a sounding of the current status quo in the world of contemporary media art, thereby underscoring its social relevance – particularly in an era in which the fusion of digital and real, physical worlds continues apace.”

Andreas Angelidakis undertakes a kind of media archaeology in his works when he posits an analogy between the classical philosopher Diogenes and ancient vessels emblazoned with drawings and stories on the one hand, and our use of media today on the other. In her video installations, **Melanie Bonajo** counters our high-tech world with nature and its potential – at times it concerns existential experience, at others the man/machine interface. **Antoine Catala's** kinetic and pneumatic objects utilise precisely this innovative technology in order to focus thematically upon fundamental human feelings. **Hanne Lippard** stages highly nuanced and precise voice-based performances and installations that communicate through sound and the spoken word taken from her elegant, poetic texts. **Sondra Perry** produces videos and video sculptures that frequently demand physical activity on the part of the viewer and thus channel the focus upon the body once more, its potential and its shortcomings, whereby paradoxically this very body would seem to have become almost superfluous in our increasingly digital world.

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Nam June Paik Award in cooperation with

**Westfälischer
Kunstverein**

The Nam June Paik Award includes prize money of € 25,000 and will be awarded on 9 November on site in Münster by an international panel of judges.

Kunststiftung NRW

Founded by the State Government under Minister President Johannes Rau in 1989 as the Foundation for the Arts and Culture of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Kunststiftung NRW supports artistic achievements and projects of outstanding quality. The foundation achieves its aims by funding exhibitions, concerts, dance projects, theatre productions, readings and commissioned works. In special cases the foundation has provided funds for the acquisition of art works of exceptional significance to the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Nurturing young artists of exceptional talent and cultivating international cultural exchange are further key aims of the foundation.

The state of North Rhine-Westphalia is not only the most populous of Germany's federal regions. It is also one of Europe's richest and most diverse cultural landscapes. Kunststiftung NRW funding secures North Rhine-Westphalia's diversity. The foundation operates in close dialogue with artists and those engaged in the cultural sector to work towards the culture of the future. It is a force driving cultural development, both nationally and internationally. This is manifest in its many projects collaborating with artists and institutions around the world, whose ideas enrich the cultural landscape of North Rhine-Westphalia.

<http://www.kunststiftung-nrw.de/en>

Westfälischer Kunstverein

Founded in 1831, the Westfälischer Kunstverein is one of the oldest art associations in Germany and enjoys international standing. The Kunstverein still promotes and establishes young contemporary art to this day and, from the post-war period by the latest, has assumed significant responsibility for the sponsorship of young, up-and-coming artists on an international level in the field of visual art in the City of Münster. The work of several young artists, who would later achieve international recognition in their own right, were presented here to a broader audience for the first time. Whereas the Kunstverein's exhibition practice is devoted to contemporary art, the focus of the collection is upon medieval painting. The collection itself, comprising approximately 2,000 artworks, has been placed at the disposal of the LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur / Westfälisches Landesmuseum (Westphalian State Museum). Having enjoyed an association with the Landesmuseum ever since 1908, the Kunstverein relocated the Museum's new premises between Domplatz and Rothenburg in 2013.

<https://www.westfaelischer-kunstverein.de>

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