

Media Information  
October 7, 2021

## **Sandra Mujinga is the winner of the Preis der Nationalgalerie 2021.**

BMW as long-term partner of Germany's most prestigious contemporary art award.

**Berlin.** On the evening of October 7, 2021, the winner of the Preis der Nationalgalerie was announced at Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin. Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the BMW Group Cultural Engagement supports the Preis der Nationalgalerie for over 15 years now.

The jury, consisting of **Emre Baykal**, chief curator, Arter, Istanbul; **Sven Beckstette**, curator at Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin; **Gabriele Knapstein**, director, Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin; **Emma Lavigne**, president, Palais de Tokyo, Paris and **Yesomi Umolu**, director curatorial affairs and public practice, Serpentine Galleries, London, decided after intense discussions on Sandra Mujinga (born 1989 in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo) as the prize winner. With the award Mujinga wins a major solo exhibition next year in one of the Nationalgalerie's institutions as well as an accompanying publication.

“The jury has decided to award this year's Preis der Nationalgalerie to Sandra Mujinga. Sandra Mujinga works across a variety of media, with her presentation at Hamburger Bahnhof placing a focus on her sculptural practice. On the one hand, the works display a great sensibility for craft and materiality. Yet, with them, Mujinga is also able to reconcile contradictory experiences: ostensibly familiar forms disappear before we are able to grasp them; her spectral figures appear ominous, but also seem to offer their protection; although static, they exhibit an inherent dynamism; and they are both finished, but also seemingly in a state of becoming. Her negotiation of these contradictions opens up a space for imagination on the part of the viewer. The topics addressed by her works resonate greatly with the present moment, while also seeming to come from a future already passed. They remind us to be considerate of other living beings for the sake of our own survival, and that we can observe and learn from their various strategies of adapting to an ever-changing world”, stated the **jury** in its unanimous decision.

“Since 2013, after being awarded the Preis der Nationalgalerie, Marianna Castillo Deball, Anne Imhof, Agnieszka Polska, and Pauline Curnier Jardin have come up with incredibly impressive presentations for the Hamburger Bahnhof. I would like to give my sincerest thanks to the members of the jury for today's lively discussion and congratulate Sandra Mujinga, whose exhibition we will now spend the coming year preparing,” stated **Dr Gabriele Knapstein, head of Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin.**

**Dr Nicolas Peter, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, Finance**, said about the newly announced winner, “Looking at past nominees and their later careers, the significance of the shortlist has become very clear. As long-standing partner, we would like to warmly congratulate Sandra Mujinga as this year's winner. We are very much looking forward to her upcoming exhibition.”

Corporate Communications

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In addition to Sandra Mujinga, the shortlisted artists for this year's Preis der Nationalgalerie included Calla Henkel & Max Pitegoff, Sung Tieu and Lamin Fofana. Their works will be presented as part of a group exhibition at Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin until February 27, 2022. During this period, visitors will be given the opportunity to vote for their favorite at [www.tip-berlin.de](http://www.tip-berlin.de). Following the exhibition of the shortlisted artists, all votes will be counted and the winner of the audience award will be announced. Among all participants tipBerlin raffles one of the limited BMW Art Car miniatures of the 1975 designed BMW Art Car by Alexander Calder. With his design for the BMW 3.0 CSL, the artist laid the foundation for what is today internationally known as the [BMW Art Car Collection](#).

After the award ceremony, more than 250 international guests and friends of the Nationalgalerie celebrated the winner Sandra Mujinga with the longstanding partner BMW.

The Preis der Nationalgalerie was founded in 2000 by Freunde der Nationalgalerie and supported by BMW as exclusive partner for 15 years now. The award focuses on young important positions of today. Eligible are artists of all nationalities who at the time of their nomination live and work in Germany and are under the age of 40. Previous awardees amongst others were Monica Bonvicini (2005), Cyprien Gaillard (2011), Anne Imhof (2015), Agnieszka Polska (2017) and Pauline Curnier Jardin (2019).

For further information and image material, please visit the press section of [www.preisdernationalgalerie.de](http://www.preisdernationalgalerie.de) or [www.smb.museum](http://www.smb.museum) as well as the BMW PressClub <https://www.press.bmwgroup.com/global>

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**About the artists and their works on display at the shortlist exhibition  
Preis der Nationalgalerie 2021****Lamin Fofana** (lives in Berlin and New York)

Lamin Fofana explores questions of movement, migration, alienation and belonging through his electronic music and in installations. He synthesizes original composition, field recordings and archival material to create sounds which place historical and contemporary Black critical thought in a dialogue with the reality of the world around us, and which open up new spaces for reflection beyond this reality. For Preis der Nationalgalerie 2021, Fofana is presenting the sound installations “BLUES” (2020) and “Ballad Air & Fire” (2021), in which he incorporates light and scents as well as videos and photography by his long-term collaborators Nicolas Premier and Jim C. Nedd. In the installations, Fofana engages with key texts dealing with the experiences of African people living in the West—including works by Sylvia Wynter, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Amiri Baraka—to create a multisensory space that fosters an active and collective practice of listening.

**Calla Henkel & Max Pitegoff** (born 1988 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA / 1987 in Buffalo, New York, USA; both live in Berlin)

Over the past ten years, Calla Henkel and Max Pitegoff have developed a practice rooted in documentary photography which has captured the socio-urban development of Berlin from their perspective within the city’s artistic community. Their spaces Times Bar, New Theater and, currently, their TV Bar have shaped the Berlin art scene of recent years. In the photographic series “Exteriors” (2021) and “Collective Image (Klärwerk Ruhleben)” (2021), the duo examines utopian projections and underlying realities in order to offer a view on urban development in Berlin and the unseen, peripheral moments of city living. In addition, they are presenting a trailer for “Paradise” (since 2020), an ongoing television series filmed at TV Bar. The first two episodes of the series will be shown parallel to the exhibition in bars and independent spaces around the city, including Bierhaus Urban, Hopscotch Reading Room, Eschschloraque, and Restaurant im Hamburger Bahnhof.

**Sandra Mujinga** (born 1989 in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo; lives in Berlin and Oslo)

In her work, Sandra Mujinga negotiates economies of visibility and invisibility, and questions around identity, self-representation and surveillance. The notion of camouflage and invisibility as a survival strategy plays a crucial role in her observations of existing socio-political structures and power dynamics. She navigates both physical and digital spaces to create images and spatial configuration for speculative worlds which look beyond an anthropocentric paradigm. In the exhibition, Mujinga is presenting two new sculptural ensembles: “Reworlding Remains” (2021) and “Sentinels of Change” (2021). Engaging with principles of Afrofuturism and science fiction, and theories of the posthuman, Mujinga deploys the strategy of worldbuilding in the creation of fantastic figures and a schematic representation of a dinosaur’s body bathed in green light.

**Sung Tieu** (born 1987 in Hau Duong, Vietnam; lives in Berlin)

Life in the diaspora and its psychological consequences, as well as the legacy of the Cold War and its lasting effects on global capitalism are all recurring themes in the work of Sung Tieu (born 1987 in Hai Duong, Vietnam, lives in Berlin). In her works she often interlinks fact and fiction, historical and biographical events, and a diverse array of lived social experiences. The installation “Song for VEB Stern-Radio Berlin” (2021) draws on her interest in the history of Vietnamese contract workers in the GDR. By incorporating radios manufactured by contract workers in Berlin, Tieu’s installation alludes directly to the city and its Vietnamese community. The radios activate the space acoustically and create a dense weave of readymades, texts and sound that give occasion to think about the relationship between work and life, and between individuals and systems.

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Further information: <https://www.bmwgroup.com/culture> and [www.bmwgroup.com/overview](http://www.bmwgroup.com/overview)

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