



Media Information
October 30, 2008

Candidates for the Nationalgalerie Prize for Young Art 2009 nominated: Keren Cytter, Omer Fast, Annette Kelm, Danh Vo.

Berlin. In 2009, the *Nationalgalerie Prize for Young Art* (Preis der Nationalgalerie für junge Kunst) will be awarded for the fourth time. The four *shortlist* nominees were announced during a grand party at BMW Kurfürstendamm on October 29, 2008 on the evening before the opening of the Art Forum Berlin. Keren Cytter, Omer Fast, Annette Kelm and Danh Vo are the artists who will compete for the Preis der Nationalgalerie für junge Kunst at a joint exhibition being held at the Hamburger Bahnhof next year. All four candidates have accepted the nomination.

The nominated artists were selected by the first jury from a *longlist* comprising a total of 130 proposals. The *longlist* was compiled from recommendations made by members of the Freunde der Nationalgalerie (Association of Friends of the Nationalgalerie) as well as 130 European museum directors and curators. The jury's decision reflects the diversity of artistic production in Germany, not only with regard to the different nationalities involved, but also in terms of the media and artistic strategies used. Their works are all considered and conceptual, break with conventional viewpoints and subsequently open up apparently familiar realities, precisely through the new perspectives which they create. A full explanation given by the jury is enclosed. The *first jury* consisted of Massimiliano Gioni (Nicola Trussardi Foundation, Mailand and New Museum for Contemporary Art, New York), Jessica Morgan (Tate Modern, London), Beatrix Ruf (Kunsthalle Zürich), Janneke de Vries (Gesellschaft für aktuelle Kunst Bremen) and Bernhart Schwenk (Pinakothek der Moderne München). The five-person international second jury will be nominated in the spring of 2009. This jury will announce the award-winner during a ceremony at the Hamburger Bahnhof on October 2, 2009. With a total of 50,000 Euros prize money, the Nationalgalerie Prize for Young Art is one of the most valuable prizes awarded in the field of contemporary art. The prize is intended for young, outstanding artists of the present day. Artists of all nations who are currently working in Germany and under the age of 40 may participate.

The Nationalgalerie Prize is made possible by the Freunde der Nationalgalerie (Association of Friends of the Nationalgalerie) and sponsored by the BMW Group.

In addition to this commitment, BMW supports contemporary fine arts with the "Prix BMW" of the Paris Photo and the "Premio de Pintura" in Madrid. Moreover, BMW has awarded grants to international artists since 2008 within the framework of the Leipzig International Art Programme (LIA).



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Jury Statement

Shortlist 2009: Keren Cytter, Omer Fast, Annette Kelm, Danh Vo

In selecting Keren Cytter, Omer Fast, Annette Kelm and Danh Vo, four young artists have been singled out for praise who have recently emerged with brave and very decisive artistic strategies. Their works are all considered and conceptual, break with conventional viewpoints and subsequently open up apparently familiar realities, precisely through the new perspectives which they create. All four artists nominated have already garnered initial recognition, but are still altogether unknown to a wider public. In the choice of finding four nominees who each represent varying standpoints in contemporary art, the following individuals were deemed particularly noteworthy:

Keren Cytter

(born in 1977 in Tel Aviv; lives in Berlin and Amsterdam)

In a series of films and film installations about her surroundings, her friends and her family, the Israeli artist Keren Cytter has developed a radical subjectivity which she posits against the conventions and rules of literature and the cinema. In the place of dialogue or plot, notes similar to those jotted down in a diary, impressions, observations and even grotesque, dream-like fantasies all prevail. With sophisticated shifts and jumps and a complex approach, Keren Cytter questions our relation to reality.

Omer Fast

(born in 1972 in Jerusalem; lives in Berlin)

In his works which are strongly influenced by the history and politics of the current day, the American-Israeli artist Omer Fast scrutinizes the value of experience in society. He often takes actual events or incidents as his starting point, reconstructing them with the aid of research, interviews or found material. In his intensive film installations, mostly all multi-channel works, history is rendered as ultimately being an intangible fusion of memory and fiction, facts and imagination.

Annette Kelm

(born in 1975 in Stuttgart; lives in Berlin)

Anette Kelm has developed a brand of conceptual photography which allows her to playfully adopt the conventions of such genres as the still life, portrait and commercial advertising photograph as well as to simultaneously break through them. Many of her photographs show multiply suggestive objects or poses, but purposefully reveal little of the context from which they are taken. With her photographs which are both precise and hermetical at once and which are often conceived of in series, Annette Kelm encourages open associations about relations and references which go far beyond the actual subject involved.



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Danh Vo

(born in 1975 in Vietnam; lives in Berlin)

Danh Vo, who grew up in Denmark, poses the question of a cultural sense of belonging and identity in his political and often documentary-styled works and installations. In a rather insidious manner, Danh Vo subverts autobiographies, appropriates objects or remnants whose individual stories either become lost in the way they are newly arranged in the work of art or become charged with other levels of meaning. In this often also spatially complex transfer of things and their stories, Danh Vo particularly exposes the way modes of narrative are culturally informed.

Further information available at

www.preis2009.de
www.bmwgroup.com/kultur

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Pictures of the artists and of the party at BMW Kurfürstendamm

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