



FONDATION
FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER

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Contemporary Talents 11th edition

Press release

The laureats

Marie-Anita Gaube • M'hammed Kilito • Eva Medin • Sarah Ritter



THE FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER FOUNDATION IN WATTWILLER announces the winners of the 11th edition

Contemporary Talents

> a prestigious annual **international contemporary art competition dedicated to the theme of water** created by François Schneider in 2011

> **Up to 1,000 entries** each year, from around 100 countries, selected by a Grand Jury of experts from the world of contemporary art

> a maximum annual grant of 160,000 euros: 15,000 euros per winner and production aid of 80,000 euros for the realisation of works presented in the form of projects

> **a unique collection on the theme of water, bringing together some seventy works by the 74 winning artists:**

Yoav Admoni • Akmar • Renaud Auguste-Dormeuil • Nour Awada • Rachael Louise Bailey • Guillaume Barth • Hicham Berrada • Benoît Billotte • Mathieu Bonardet • Bianca Bondi • Muriel Bordier • Jessie Brennan Emilie Brout & Maxime Marion • Gaëlle Callac • Cécile Carrière • Julie Chaffort • Yves Chaudouët • Claire Chesnier • Etienne Cliquet • Valère Costes • Olivier Crouzel • Edouard Decam • Asieh Dehghani • Céline Diais • Rebecca Digne • Cristina Escobar • Collectif EthnoGraphic • Laurent Faulon • Sara Ferrer • Etienne Fouchet • Marie-Anita Gaube • Antoine Gonin • Harald Hund • Arthur Hoffner • Hao Jingfang & Wang Lingjie • Nadia Kaabi-Linke • Zhang Kechun • M'hammed Kilito • Elizaveta Konovalova • Jérémy Laffon • Mathilde Lavenne • Olivier Leroi • Sujin Lim • Rahshia Linendoll-Sawyer • Claire Malrieux • Laurent Mareschal • Medhi Meddaci • Eva Medin • Camille Michel • Gustavo Millon • Eva Nielsen • Maël Nozahic • Johan Parent • Benoît Pype • Bertrand Rigaux • Sarah Ritter • Francisco Rodríguez Teare • Benjamin Rossi • Erik Samakh • Sandra & Ricardo • Alex Seton • Sidorenko-Dutca • Paul Souviron • Elvia Teotski • Thomas Teurlai • Capucine Vandebrout • Wiktoria Wojciechowska • Jenny Ymker

Reflecting current contemporary creation, the Talents Contemporains competition, initiated more than 10 years ago, enables the European and international artistic scenes to be explored on the particular theme of water. A highly original collection has thus been built up, presenting artists who have graduated from recognised art schools as well as atypical self-taught artists. Nearly 70 works now form a singular ensemble that runs counter to certain institutional trends, exhibited both in the art centre and increasingly circulating in different regions.

For the winning artists, not only does the award consist of real financial support, but it also provides a springboard for their careers, with institutional recognition, various communication tools available and sharing with the public.

Last February, four committees of experts selected the works or projects of 30 finalists from among the 432 candidates from 36 countries.

The 2022 grand jury, chaired by **Jean-Noël Jeanneney**, was composed of :

Rosa-Maria Malet – Director of the Miró Foundation 1980 - 2017, member of the Board of Directors (Barcelona)

Constance de Monbrison – Head of the Insulinde collections, musée du quai Branly - Jacques Chirac (Paris)

Alfred Pacquement – Honorary General Curator of Heritage (Paris)

Chiara Parisi – Director of the Centre Pompidou - Metz (Metz)

At its meeting last week, it selected four finalists who will benefit from a group exhibition in the Foundation's art centre, a bilingual publication, a video portrait and the acquisition of their work. The existing works of Marie-Anita Gaube, M'hammed Kilito, Eva Medin and Sarah Ritter will join the Foundation's collection.

The laureats



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Marie-Anita Gaube

Born in 1986 in Paris (France) | Lives and works in Tours (France)

Marie-Anita Gaube graduated from the Ecole des Beaux Arts de Lyon in 2012. She questions the notions of heterotopias, which, as defined by Michel Foucault, represent «other spaces» inscribed in reality. Painting thus becomes a contesting space, a place of utopian projections or fantasies within society. Her work has recently been exhibited at the CCC OD in Tours, at the Paul Dini Museum, at the Lacoux Art Centre, as well as in Denmark, or in Mexico. In 2015 she was awarded a prize by the Colas Foundation.

→ [Learn more](#)



You can't run away from yourself, 2020.

Acrylic and oil on canvas, 237 × 290 cm.

Can't run away from yourself is an expanding painting, in which the world seems to be constantly moving towards an inner movement. It is a passage, a rite. Water erodes certain spaces in the scene, sculpts the vaporous mountains to open up into a celestial landscape in the upper part of the painting. It is water that evaporates into mist, almost tamed by the monkey playing intoxicating music, giving the distance that characteristic blue. Water as an object of metamorphosis of a world, in itself, to itself. A game of twists and ricochets forces the viewer's gaze to swing to the other side or «inside». Nature, thought to be immobile and mute, extends its reality under backgrounds of light, in vegetation or human constructions. Vaporious, washed bodies seem to escape from the scene or to be in metamorphosis. The artist places us in front of her work as she would place us in front of ourselves, as her title suggests, we *can't run away from yourself*.



© Vladimir Gheorghiu

M'hammed Kilito

Born in 1981 in Lviv (Ukraine) | Lives and works in Rabat (Morocco)

M'hammed Kilito's photographic practice explores the relationship between communities and their environment and questions cultural identity, the sociology of work and climate change. He is a Magnum Foundation and Prince Claus Fund Laureate (2017), winner of the World Press Photo 6x6 Global Talent Award (2020) and the Contemporary African Photography Award (2020). His photographs are part of the collections of the CNAP and the Fondation des Treilles.

→ [Learn more](#)



Hooked to paradise, 2021. Photographs, 5 × (80 × 80) cm.

In this polyptych composed of 5 photographs from the series *Hooked to paradise*, M'hammed Kilito documents the complex issues of oasis degradation in Morocco and its impact on its inhabitants. Water is the vital element in the genesis of oases and their biodiversity. With increasingly frequent and devastating drought cycles, oases, once shields against desertification, are now threatened with extinction. The resulting water stress is leading to a decrease in agricultural and livestock activities and accelerating the displacement of indigenous populations. According to official statistics from the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture, Morocco has already lost two thirds of its 14 million palm trees over the last century. This project was born out of the urgency and collective demand to find a solution to this environmental disaster. *Hooked to paradise* highlights the many concerns of local populations that are rarely covered by the media and largely unknown to the general public.



Eva Medin

Born in 1988 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) | Lives and works in Paris (France)

Eva Medin's work merges performing and visual arts, cinema and theatricality. Inspired by science fiction, she creates immersive landscapes, between past and future, earth and cosmos. Trained at the Ecole Supérieure d'Art Plastique in Monaco and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, Eva Medin is the winner of the Prix des Amis du Palais de Tokyo (2020). Her work has been exhibited at the Manifesta Biennial and the Chroniques Biennial, 2020 (Marseille) or at the Drawing Now art fair, 2018 (Paris). His work is currently on display at the Palais de Tokyo.

→ [Learn more](#)



Le monde après la pluie, 2020. Video, 10 min.

Le monde après la pluie (The world after rain) is a choreographic fable inspired by Philippe Curval's science fiction book and Max Ernst's painting *L'Europe après la pluie*. Two works that deal with transformation, rebirth and hybridisation. Eva Medin's video revisits the theme of metamorphosis through the motif of water and the staging of an ambiguous creature, combining a vocabulary of cinema, dance and sculpture. In view of the current ecological crisis, the artist is particularly interested in science fiction, which highlights the excesses of our societies and questions the future of humanity. The sculpture-character of his video work is brought to a deconstruction and degeneration under the effect of rain, until a new creature appears: between the organic, the mineral or the spiritual entity. Water then takes a central place in this work: it becomes the binder that allows us to metaphorically question the conditions of a paradigm shift in each of us and in our societies.

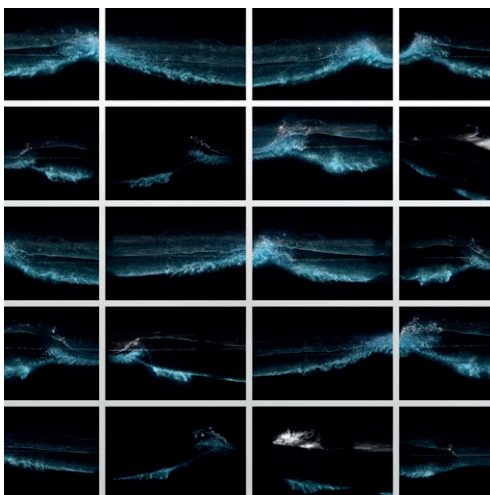


Sarah Ritter

Born in 1978 in Besançon (France) | Lives and works in Besançon (France)

After studying philosophy, Sarah Ritter graduated from the Ecole nationale supérieure de la photographie d'Arles (2008). Her work has been awarded several prizes and is present in several public collections (FRAC Auvergne, FRAC Franche-Comté, FNAC). Winner of the research programme of the Institute for Photography in Lille (2021) and of the national commission of the BNF «Radioscopie de la France» (2022), the artist published a monograph in 2019, *La nuit craque sous nos doigts*, accompanied by a play by Christophe Fiat.

→ [Learn more](#)



Les vagues scélérates, 2021. Photographs, 20×(50×80) cm.

The series *Les vagues scélérates* (The rogue waves), consisting of 20 photographs, originates from an exploration of scientific knowledge. During her research, the artist discovered that water and light behave in the same way, so much so that one speaks of rogue waves in optical fibres, as on the ocean. Fascinated by this unexpected parallel, Sarah Ritter discovered the world of fluid mechanics and, in particular, wave channels: a sort of long glass corridor filled with water in which artificial waves are generated in order to study them. From this extremely artificial universe, the series proposes a recomposition of impossible waves, where logic is king. Science is used here in reverse as a scenography of wonders, of acting fictions, and photography, by freezing the movement, sculpts the waves and metamorphoses them. Our belief in images makes us look for coherence where there is only editing and fake waves. They draw a universe in tension, between a blue plastic sand and an ocean that we no longer understand – a world that escapes us, an uncertain world.

ABOUT THE FRANÇOIS SCHNEIDER FOUNDATION

Between forest and mountain in a small Alsatian village in eastern France, on the border with Germany and Switzerland, the François Schneider Foundation is housed in a former bottling plant transformed into an art centre where the spaces play on transparency and light.

A philanthropic foundation created in 2000 and recognised as a public utility in 2005, the François Schneider Foundation has a dual commitment to education and culture. It provides high school students with access to higher education through scholarships and supports contemporary artists in the development of their careers.

Since 2011, the Talents Contemporains competition rewards each year several artists for works or projects on the theme of water. Over the years, a unique art collection has been built up, reflecting the diversity of artistic practices in the 21st century. Today, nearly 80 works form a singular ensemble that runs counter to certain institutional trends, exhibited both in the art centre and circulating in different regions.

The François Schneider Foundation conceives three exhibitions per year, alternating between the Talents Contemporains exhibitions, collaborations with major cultural institutions and giving carte blanche to contemporary artists. The exhibitions question the theme of water and explore questions of environment and geography, imagination and travel, and more social commitments. Clouds, melting ice, water and the digital, water and comics are the various subjects of the latest projects.

In addition to these exhibitions, conferences, round tables, concerts of classical or contemporary music and live performances are held, offering complementary visions to the visual works and the theme of water. Numerous workshops and different forms of mediation are offered to a varied public. (family, school, hospital, socio-educational environment, association...). Artists' residencies complete this support for creation. A vast garden of sculptures and fountains also offers a delightful walk.

Nature, art and education converse happily and meet along the water. The François Schneider Foundation is a place of escape, reflection and sharing.



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