



Spirit Now London is delighted to announce the winner of the second edition of the Spirit Now London Acquisition Prize in partnership with Frieze London. This years edition paid particular attention to female artists under the age of 40 presented at Frieze London.

The 2023 Prize is attributed to the artists BRONWYN KATZ for a large-scale installation (6 meters) and RENE MATIĆ for two photos.

The three works have been acquired for The Hepworth Wakefield. Thanks to the donation, they will join the permanent collection.

The jury headed by Marie-Laure de Clermont Tonnerre and composed of 17 members of the Spirit Now London Community and the leadership team of The Hepworth Wakefield including Simon Wallis, Director, Olivia Colling, Deputy Director and Laura Smith, Director of Collection & Exhibitions, visited the booths early morning of the opening day 11th October and deliberated early afternoon.

The Spirit of giving committee focuses on helping museums acquire more works of female artists. 53 female artists (including non-binary) below 40 were proposed for the Prize this year.

Bronwyn KATZ

Work acquired for The Hepworth Wakefield:

Kx'orakx'ora (renew), 2022, copper-coated wire, ruts and twine, 133 x 667 x 45 cm
Stevenson Gallery, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Amsterdam



Photography: DR

Katz was born in 1993 in Kimberley, South Africa. She lives and works between Cape Town and Johannesburg.

Incorporating sculpture, installation, video and performance, Katz's practice engages with the concept of land as a repository of memory and trauma, reflecting on the notion of place or space as lived experience, and the ability of the land to remember and communicate the memory of its occupation. Working with found natural materials such as iron ore, or used man-made objects such as foam mattress and bed springs, Katz's approach to making is driven by storytelling and intuition. Conceptually, her sculptures refer to the political context of their making, embodying subtle acts of resistance that draw attention to the social constructions and boundaries that continue to define our environments. For Katz, the language of abstraction is in active opposition to overt representation, allowing her work to be open to multivalent readings. Hers is a minimalism that converses with early forms of abstract art; methods and traditions of mark-making and storytelling that long predate western modernism.

Katz has featured in group exhibitions including *The Milk of Dreams*, the 59th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale (2022); *Soft Water, Hard Stone*, the New Museum Triennial, New York (2021); the Future Generation Art Prize exhibition, PinchukArtCentre, Kyiv (2021); *Upkeep: Everyday Strategies of Care*, The Arts Club of Chicago (2020); *We Aim to Live*, Zuzeum Art Centre, Riga (2020); *NIRIN*, 22nd Biennale of Sydney (2020); *Là où les eaux se mêlent*, 15th Biennale de Lyon (2019) and *Material Insanity*, Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakech (2019).

In 2022 Katz was selected as a protégé for the Rolex Mentor and Protege Arts Initiative, set to work with El Anatsui over a period of two years. She was shortlisted for the Future Generation Art Prize in 2021 and was awarded the First National Bank Art Prize in 2019.

Katz is a founding member of iQhiya, an 11-women artist collective which has performed across various spaces, including Documenta (in Kassel and Athens), Greatmore Studios, and Iziko South African National Gallery.

Rene MATIĆ

Works acquired for The Hepworth Wakefield:

Southbank Centre Dressing Room II, London, 2023 and *Freddie Getting Dressed, London, 2023*; two archival pigment print, 137,1 x 94,74 cm (framed)

Arcadia Missa Gallery, London



Photography: Nathan Vidler. Courtesy of The Artist and Arcadia Missa, London.

Rene Matić (b. 1997, Peterborough, UK) is a London-based artist and writer whose practice spans across photography, film, and sculpture, converging in a meeting place they describe as "rude(ness)" - an evidencing and honouring of the in-between. Matić draws inspiration from dance and music movements such as Northern soul, Ska, and 2-Tone as a tool to delve into the complex relationship between West Indian and white working-class culture in Britain, whilst privileging queer/ing intimacies, partnerships and pleasure as modes of survival.

Matić's works are in several prominent collections including Tate, London (UK); Foundation Louis Vuitton, Paris (FR); UK Government Art Collection, London (UK); Arts Council Collection, London (UK); South London Gallery, London (UK); Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool (UK); Martin Parr Foundation, Bristol (UK); University Arts London Collection, London (UK).

The Spirit Now London Acquisition Prize - Donation to a Museum

With a firm commitment to advancing gender equality in the art world, Spirit Now London places a special emphasis on empowering female artists. The aim of the prize is to support decentralized high-level institutions in UK and bring more contemporary creation and diversity into their permanent collections. In 2022, thanks to the inaugural edition of the Prize organised during Frieze Masters, a work by awarded artist Sylvia Snowden was donated to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. This year, the Acquisition Prize seeks to recognize the outstanding achievements of **female artists below the age of 40, exhibiting at Frieze London**. By focusing on this dynamic and diverse group, Spirit Now London aims to amplify their voices and contributions within the art community.

“Art has the power to transform, inspire, and provoke conversations”, says Marie-Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre, founder and Director of Spirit Now London. We believe in nurturing the talents of emerging artists, especially women, and providing them with the recognition and support they deserve”.

“The Hepworth Wakefield is thrilled to be the beneficiary of this year’s Spirit Now London Acquisition Prize, declares Laura Smith - Director of Collection & Exhibitions at The Hepworth Wakefield. We look forward to the collaboration with the Spirit Now London community and are enormously grateful for their generosity in enabling us to further our commitment to diversifying Wakefield’s permanent art collection and championing the work of women artists at a formative stage in their career.”

The Hepworth Wakefield

The Hepworth Wakefield is a modern and contemporary art museum in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, open in 2011, designed by architect David Chipperfield, and publicly funded. Named in reference to Barbara Hepworth, one of the greatest sculptors of the 20th century, its exceptional collection is deeply rooted in her work. The museum aims to bring more contemporary creation and diversity, especially through iconic works by female artists. The donation of the Spirit Now London Acquisition Prize 2023 will not only enhance the museum's collection but also provide an enduring legacy for the artist and contributes to the enrichment of the broader cultural landscape.



Spirit Now London

Founded in 2015 and directed by Marie-Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre, Spirit Now London is an international and diverse community of art patrons and collectors from all over the world including Taiwan, Colombia, Greece, Peru, Egypt, USA, UK, Italy, Kazakhstan and Iran to name a few. All engaged with many institutions worldwide (including the boards of many museums institutions), their philanthropic mission is to promote cultural institutions, women and emerging artists, and financially supporting art exhibitions.

Marie-Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre is also co-founder with her husband of the Fondation Marie-Laure and Jean-François de Clermont-Tonnerre, implicated in the spheres of education, science, culture and the environment.

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CAPTIONS FOR VISUALS

Portrait of Bronwyn Katz © DR
Portrait of Rene Matić, courtesy of The Artist
The Hepworth Wakefield © Jason Ingram
Portrait of Marie-Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre © Julio Piatti

