



The second edition of the International Emerging Artists Awards providing emerging artists with a chance to break into the international arts scene.

BY CAROLE RINALDI

THE IEAA, FOUNDED IN THE UAE IN 2011, was born out of the passion of its director, Roha Naim, for emerging artists. Living in Dubai, she imagined a contemporary art competition that would focus more on the career development of the artists by giving them experience at an international level through exhibition and media exposure rather than offering a cash prize.

IEAA winners thus gain recognition by art professionals through the involvement of the international contemporary art galleries that are partners of the event. The core similarity of the IEAA is based on the promotion of artists whose work and practice reveal a wide range of artistic innovation. The IEAA is a springboard for the careers of talented artists who are only waiting to be known. Regardless of their work, age, what matters is the quality and originality of their work, and the way it opens equally to photographers, sculptors, video artists, performance artists, painters, digital artists etc. As Roha Naim emphasizes about her relationship with them, "we listen to the artist (and) try and understand the basis of their career as an individual," adding that "it is a great enriching human experience." It is through them that this unique platform of emerging artists is created.

This year, two official winners were designated: Pablo de Laborde Lacaratz, of Mexican origin, representative of the international scene, and Dr. Hamed Al Faisal from the United Arab Emirates, but the quality of the selected candidates was such that the IEAA wanted all of the top ten artists to be exhibited alongside the two winners at the FN Design gallery in Dubai. FN Design holds a special place in the competition with the outstanding support of its director, Her Highness Sheikha Wadiah Haider Al Maktoum, who is patron of the award and an artist herself.

After Pablo de Laborde Lacaratz, first successful exhibition in Dubai at FN Design (March 2012) and in Singapore at Van Hyke Gallery, the emerging artist was invited to become an associate of the two-year-old Galerie Gourvennec Ogor in Marseille, whose French director, IEAA juror Didier Gourvennec Ogor, is also President of Marseille Expose and a prominent figure within MPEA, Marseille-Provence 2013 European Capital of Culture. The Emirati winner, Dr. Hamed Al Faisal, and Hamed, Hani Al Shamsi, who came third in the contest, were also invited to participate in future exhibitions in Dubai at FN Design.

Through this approach, IEAA artists have received great opportunities at the start of their careers. Thus, Pablo de Laborde Lacaratz was invited to

showcase his work in the Swiss Barcelona Art Fair from October 3-6, 2013 with Galerie Gourvennec Ogor, along with other shows that they proudly look forward to in 2014. This is what the gallery owner, Didier Gourvennec Ogor says about his collaboration with the emerging artist: "Pablo will be exhibited from October 31 at Galerie Gourvennec Ogor in a solo exhibition. He will have the opportunity to show a space of nearly 200 square meters by 4.7 meters in height. This is a difficult exercise for artists in general, but I am sure he will take advantage of this great opportunity. The exhibition is already booked in the program of Marseille-Provence 2013 European Capital of Culture. As I am very excited by this new collaboration with such a promising artist, of course it will be followed by other projects of exhibitions or fairs."

Indeed, a distinct feature of IEAA is also to focus on the artist's long-term career and to strengthen the position of award-garde Emirati artists. Dr. Hamed Al Faisal emphasizes this: "The art scene within the UAE has blossomed in the past 10 years. This is clearly seen in the number of art galleries, UAE art fairs, art programs, art competitions and, above all, the rise in public receptiveness to art. The authorities have given extra attention to the field, too, with a number of initiatives and programs implemented at different educational levels." The IEAA also enjoys the support of prestigious partners such as the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority.

Dr. Hamed Al Faisal presented a series of photographs entitled "Cotogalamin", about which he says: "My aim is to document non-colloquial words used within UAE society and to complement their beauty as an artistic format. The location for each photograph was carefully examined and chosen to reflect an where those words most originated and where they might become extinct." This practice, firmly rooted in



Above: Awarded by specialist firm Al Shamsi and Ogor, Ogor Inc., who opened the IEAA 2013



On the left: the work of Emirati artist, Hamed Al Faisal, awarded by the IEAA 2013. On the right: the work of Mexican artist, Pablo de Laborde Lacaratz, awarded by the IEAA 2013. On the left: the work of Emirati artist, Hamed Al Faisal, awarded by the IEAA 2013. On the right: the work of Mexican artist, Pablo de Laborde Lacaratz, awarded by the IEAA 2013.



Event Promotion

The IEAA is a platform designed to reward the best works of the IEAA contest. This initiative is in keeping with our vision of providing broader recognition for emerging artists. This online gallery will bring visibility to those who took part in the competition.

The banks of the next contest is already announced for September 2013. Thus, new artists and emerging contemporary designers will be able to upload their songs and support their talent to beve. For more information: www.internationalartaward.com

THE IEAA IN FIGURES

Number of countries represented: artists from over 130 countries.
The IEAA was founded in 2011 by Roha Naim.
Total number of participating artists: over 2,500 in two editions.
For more information: www.internationalartaward.com



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