

With the aim of consolidating Barcelona's position as a capital of the contemporary art world, MACBA and Han Nefkens Foundation have established a new international award

- The prize, which will be awarded every two years and will be worth 50,000 euros to the winner, is open to promising artists that have not yet become fully established
 - The jury for the first award is formed by Iwona Blazwick (London), Adriano Pedrosa (São Paulo), Christine Tohmé (Beirut), Han Nefkens and Bartomeu Marí
 - In order to establish networks on the 5 continents and to raise the profile of art from "non-western" countries, a group of 10 scouts will draw up a long-list of thirty candidates
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Barcelona, 28 November 2011. On this day, in Barcelona, Han Nefkens, the Dutch patron of the arts, and Bartomeu Marí, director of the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), signed an agreement to establish the **Han Nefkens Foundation MACBA Award for Contemporary Art**. This award, established to encourage contemporary artistic creation, is aimed at artists of any age, nationality or gender that have established a solid trajectory but have not yet been given recognition by art institutions. The prize will be awarded every two years on November 28, coinciding with the date on which MACBA first opened its doors in 1995. The **First Han Nefkens Foundation MACBA Award** will be announced and awarded exactly one year from today's date, that is to say, on 28 November 2012.

The bi-annual award is worth a total of 50,000 euros to the winning artist, 20,000 in the form of a fee and 30,000 to be used to produce a project in the city of Barcelona. Through this initiative, the co-organisers, Han Nefkens Foundation and MACBA, seek to help to consolidate the trajectories of artists who have forged consistent careers but that still require support in order to become known on the international scene. The work produced will be shown in Barcelona, in a space outside the MACBA site in order to promote diversification of the "exhibition vocabulary" that MACBA cultivates in order to disseminate outstanding works, *in situ* in close relation to the urban context, the public space and the metropolitan environment.

The winner of the **First Han Nefkens Foundation MACBA Award** will be announced on 28 November 2012 at a ceremony organised at MACBA. This event will be attended by the organisers, the jury and the winning artist, who will have a year to develop his or her artistic project ready for presentation in 2013. This dynamic will be continued for subsequent awards, with the result that the prize will be awarded one year and the resulting artistic project will be presented the following year.

One of the objectives pursued by the organisers of this new award is to establish networks on the five continents and raise the profile of art generated in countries considered "non-western".

To this end, a group of ten “scouts”, scattered all over the world, will each propose up to three artists from their geographical region to the selection committee. From amongst this list, the committee will submit a short-list of five to the jury. The international jury, which may be renewed for each bi-annual award process and composed by experts in contemporary art, will then select the winner from amongst these five artists.

The jury for the **First Han Nefkens Foundation MACBA Award (2012)** will be formed by: Iwona Blazwick (London), director of the Whitechapel Art Gallery; Adriano Pedrosa (São Paulo), independent curator, writer and art critic; Christine Tohmé (Beirut), curator and cultural activist; Han Nefkens (Netherlands and Barcelona), patron and collector; and Bartomeu Marí (Barcelona), director of MACBA (these last two will be permanent members of the jury, whilst the other three places will be renewed for each award).

Renewable members of the Han Nefkens Foundation MACBA 2012 award jury



Iwona Blazwick is director of the Whitechapel Gallery in London, having led its expansion and reopening in 2009. As head of exhibitions and displays at Tate Modern, London, director of exhibitions at London’s ICA and an independent curator in Europe and Japan, she has organized and commissioned numerous exhibitions of modern and contemporary art. She also developed the Contemporary Artists Monographs and Themes and Movements series at Phaidon Press and is the series editor of the Documents of Contemporary Art series published by Whitechapel/MIT Press.



Adriano Pedrosa, who was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1965 and now lives in São Paulo, is an independent curator, editor and writer. His work has been published in such magazines as *Artforum* (New York), *Art Nexus* (Bogotá), *Art+Text* (Sydney), *Tate etc* (London), *Exit* (Madrid) and *Frieze* (London), amongst others. Pedrosa curated “F[r]icciones” (with Ivo Mesquita, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, 2000), was co-curator and co-editor of publications at the 27th São Paulo Biennale (2006), curator of the Museu de Arte da Pampulha in Belo Horizonte (2001-2003), curator of InSite_05 in San Diego/Tijuana (2005) and artistic director of the 2nd Trienal Poli/Gráfica in San Juan (2009).



Christine Tohmé is a cultural organiser, art activist and curator living in Beirut. In 1994, she founded Ashkal Alwan, the Lebanese Association for the Plastic Arts, a non-profit organisation. Through her work, she provides a platform for free thought and critical discourse in Lebanon, promoting and developing critical reflection and cultural theory and fostering regional and international cultural exchange. In 2001 she set up Home Works, a forum for cultural practices. In 2006 she received the Prince Claus Award.