



2022 EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY AWARDS

Art Museum Award

The Judges' Report

Preamble

This European Museum Academy Award is dedicated to honour and highlight museal projects that work with art in an innovative, pioneering, and creative way in order to address or respond to current social issues that are a major challenge to our contemporary society. It is about museums functioning as “social arenas” as societally relevant meeting places.

Applications are welcome that are dealing with topics like participation, inclusion, people with special needs, gender equality, democratic process, migration, immigration, racial justice, decolonization, community building, challenges of globalization, sustainability, climate change, health care, resilience to crises like the Covid 19 pandemic.

The award is built upon democratic and human values that should be the driving force for new museal ideas for the 21st century. It is meant to identify new role models of excellence that could function as inspiring paragons of the social role of museums. Eligible to apply are not only art museums, but all other museums and galleries that work with art or art interventions.

Criteria for the Award

Organization

Managerial skills; administrative structures; code of ethics; resilience; sustainability; empowerment of the team; inclusion as far as the people working in the museum are concerned; fundraising initiatives; commercial development.

Innovation, creativity, inspiration

New ideas or innovative and creative practices as far as social issues are concerned (methodologies, technologies, new forms of engaging the audience; digital strategy...)

Social responsibility

How does the museum tackle the challenges of our current society, show social relevance and responsibility?

Participation and inclusion

Policies and programs that aim at participation and inclusion; educational and/or outreach programs.

Sustainability

Commitment to sustainability strategy. Sustainability can figure as the main topic or as just one dimension of another topic – or it can play no role at all.

Digital strategy

Does a distinctive digital strategy play a role in the museum's approach?

Network

In what networks is the museum involved? From local to international.

Public discourse

The role of the museum as a meeting place for the community, initiating discussion and exchange of ideas. Does the project stir up public discourse? What media come into play? Do participatory formats play a role?

Impact

Impact on public discourse - locally, nationally or internationally; the role of the museum as a meeting place for the community, initiating discussion. Does the museum provide a role model that can be used by others? Does the project change the way you think about art?

Overall strategy

Is there an overall strategy recognizable wherein the competing museum program/approach is embedded? (museology; museography, socio-political context)

The 2022 Panel of Judges

Mladen Banjac, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Senior curator, Museum of Contemporary Art of Republika Srpska, (MOCARS) Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Annemies Broekgaarden, The Netherlands

Head of Public and Education Department, Chair of steering group "diversity and inclusion", Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Karen Grøn, Denmark

Director of Trapholt Museum of Modern Art, Craft and Design, Kolding, Denmark

Sir John Leighton, United Kingdom

Director General National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Louisa Leventis, United Kingdom

Art Historian-Museologist, Director Leventis Foundation

Karl Borromaeus Murr, Germany

Director / State Textile and Industry Museum, Augsburg, Germany, Chairman of the Board, European Museum Academy

Bernhart Schwenk, Germany

Head Curator, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany

Jaroslaw Suchan, Poland

Independent Curator and Researcher, Former Director of Muzeum Sztuki in Lodz, Poland

Danièle Wagener, Luxembourg

Honorary Director of the Museums of the City of Luxembourg, Chairwoman of the Jury

2022 Art Museum Award Winner

The Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Cork, Ireland

The LEWIS GLUCKSMAN GALLERY in Cork, Ireland, named after one of its founding donors, the American financier and philanthropist Lewis Glucksman, was opened in 2004. The following year, in 2005, the city of Cork was the European capital of culture. Located on the grounds of the University College Cork the museum provides an important link for the university with the wider public as a place of creative connections between people and disciplines. The collection is based on modern and contemporary Irish art.

The museum places sustainability and inclusion at the center of their policy and activities, which is also reflected by the award-winning building, designed by O'Donnell + Tuomey architects. The Glucksman team has developed digital programmes and carried out large-scale projects onsite in the gallery spaces, as well as offsite in public spaces. The projects moved to the city centre have enabled participants from marginalized and rural communities such as Traveller, refugees, LGBTQ+ and families experiencing homelessness to find a way to express themselves in society through creative agency.

The judges said: "excellence in curatorial practice, collections care and audience engagement constitute the core values of the Glucksman. The museum puts sustainability and inclusion at the core of their mission, and the staff has realized impressive results with their projects, which serve as an inspiration for museums all over the world.

The museum brings communities and artists together, to explore, visualise and express their thoughts and opinions on important societal issues. This way visual art becomes a powerful tool of expression. Many projects also become part of the museum's presentation. In an aesthetic way, process and results are shared with audiences that visit the museum. The Glucksman prioritises its role as a civic institution that enables creative agency among diverse communities and is therefore well-deserving of the Art Museum Award."