



Renaissance Arts Prize

hosted by
Italian Cultural Institute – London



Photography and Video Art Awards 2010 *The Heroism of Vision*

WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

The annual awards ceremony of the Renaissance Arts Prize was held yesterday, 8 July 2010, at the Italian Cultural Institute in London.

After a presentation of all the shortlisted works, winners **Barbara Nati**, **Steffi Klenz**, **Laura Mergoni** and **Natalia Saurin** received awards donated by David Morante, co-founder of the prize and former Consul General of Italy in London, and a set of the rare Illy Art collection espresso cups *Stati d'Animo*, designed by artist Mario Giacomelli in 1997, generously provided by Illycaffè.

In addition, the photographers **Alex Boyd** and **Steffi Klenz** were each awarded the Toscana In Prize, and have been invited by the sponsor to participate in the residency *Atelier D'Artista* in May 2011.

Other shortlisted artists were Brada Barassi, Elena Biringhelli, Suki Chan, Valentina Ferrandes, Lemeh 42, Andreas Papadopoulos, Yael Schmidt.

For further information on the winners and the jury, please see below or contact the direction at info@sharpcut.eu

Winner of Best Italian Artist in the Photography category: **Barbara Nati**

Born in Italy in 1980, Nati lives and works in London. She works as an assistant to photorealist painter Anthony Brunelli and collaborates with the New York-based literary magazine *Chelsea*, working on their cover design. She has exhibited her projects in several private and public galleries, including the ArtVerona Fair 2009.

Suspended between reality and fantasy, her series *Mists of Avalon* stages monumental 21st-century utopias. Intriguing, vivid and romantic, her digital neo-gothic world subverts the concept of photography as nostalgically depicting the past.

Winner of Best Non-Italian Artist in the Photography category: **Steffi Klenz**

Born in Germany in 1979, Klenz lives and works in London. She graduated in Photography and completed an MA at the Royal College of Art in London. Since 2005 she has regularly exhibited her photographic works in many solo and group exhibitions.

While challenging the concept of home as a defined, permanent place to inhabit, *La Posa* engages with the materiality of structure, light and space. A poetic and uncanny metaphor of the cyclical nature of life, the project was recently exhibited at the Goethe Institute in Glasgow.

arte giovane



Winner of Best Italian Artist in the Video Art category: Laura Mergoni

Born in Italy in 1982, Mergoni lives and works in Brugnato. Since 2005 she has pursued her studies in France concluding with the Certificate of Plastic Art at the National School of Arts in Cergy – Paris. Since 2005 she has exhibited her works in galleries and museums in Italy, France, Spain and Greece. In July she will participate in the second Moscow International Biennale for Young Art at MmoMA, Moscow Museum of Modern Art.

An entertaining investigation of everyday southern Italian life and rituals, her work **Tombola** nonetheless raises universal issues of culture, class and gender. Ironic and playful, it skilfully merges the theatricality of the subjects portrayed with the hypnotic rhythm of chanting.

Winner of Best Non-Italian Artist in the Video Art category: Natalia Saurin

Born in Argentina in 1976, Saurin lives and works in Milan. After studying at the University of Image in 2002, she graduated in Architecture at the Polytechnic of Milan. Her works have been selected for several video festivals around the world and, since 2000, she regularly exhibits in private and public galleries like C/O Careof, Fabbrica del Vapore in Milan and Humble Arts Foundation in New York.

Simple, poetic and yet striking, her work **Dance Dance Dance** explores the heroism of facing the challenges of everyday life and the idea of escaping reality without leaving home. The work is perfect example of a close collaboration between the artist and the subject portrayed.

Winners of the Toscana In Prize: Alex Boyd and Steffi Klenz

Alex Boyd: born in Germany in 1984, lives and works in Scotland. He studied Art History at the University of Glasgow and completed an MSc in Archival Studies, specializing in photography. Since 2007 he has exhibited his work in public and private art spaces including the Scottish, Romanian and European Parliaments. In 2010 he was the winner of the both the Dewar and Scottish Art Fund Awards.

Jury

Alessandra Masolini, Director, Renaissance Arts Prize / Sharpcut Visual Arts Project
Alessio Antonioli, Director, Triangle Trust / Gasworks
Andrew Brown, Senior Strategy Officer for Visual Arts, Arts Council England
Shoko Maeda, artist, winner of the 2009 Renaissance photography award

Committee

Carlo Bach, Artistic Director, Illycaffè'
Alvise Chevallard, President, Artegiovanne
Alfredo Cramerotti, Curator, QUAD Derby
Elisabetta Fabrizi, Head of Exhibitions, British Film Institute
Elda Felluga, Azienda Livio Felluga
Pierfranca Lattuada, President, Toscana In

The remaining Illy Art collection *Stati d'Animo* espresso cups designed and signed by Mario Giacomelli, and provided by Illycaffè in support of the Renaissance Arts Prize, are available for purchase.

For further details, please contact SharpCut Visual Arts Project at info@sharpcut.eu or the Photographers' Gallery Bookshop, 16 – 18 Ramillies Street, London +44 (0)20 7087 9323.