

Roswitha Haftmann Stiftung

Press release

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Michelangelo Pistoletto honoured by the Roswitha Haftmann Foundation

On Friday 28 September the artist Michelangelo Pistoletto (b. 1933) received the Roswitha Haftmann Prize, Europe's best endowed art award, worth CHF 150,000. The prize was presented in front of 150 invited guests at the Kunsthaus Zürich.

Michelangelo Pistoletto is the eighteenth artist and the first Italian to receive Europe's best endowed art award. It was his personal wish that his art should speak for him. The Foundation Board therefore presented the prize to him in a small private ceremony. Prof. Thomas Wagner, journalist and member of the Foundation Board, gave the laudation which has now been published on the Foundation's website.

The prize was originally the initiative of Roswitha Haftmann (1924–1998), whose Foundation has awarded it since 2001 to a living artist who has created an oeuvre of outstanding quality. The winner is chosen by the Foundation Board, which includes the directors of the Kunstmuseum Bern, the Kunstmuseum Basel, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne and the Kunsthaus Zürich as well as other members co-opted by the Board.

In March 2018 the Board decided to award the Roswitha Haftmann Prize 2018 to Michelangelo Pistoletto. The artist is a leading exponent of Arte Povera and conceptual art. In a career spanning more than five decades, he has produced installations, films, performances and writings that explore the interactions between art and daily life. He has enjoyed international recognition since the 1960s, including in the United States and South America, and his works are represented in many public collections. He is one of the leading practitioners of performance art, pithily encapsulating social and political issues and engaging in intense, sometimes provocative discourses with the public at large. The award from the Roswitha Haftmann Foundation honours Michelangelo Pistoletto for his life's work.

For further information see: www.roswithahaftmann-foundation.com.

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