

Roswitha Haftmann Stiftung

Press release

Zurich, 24 January 2013

Pierre Huyghe to receive 2013 Roswitha Haftmann Prize.

For the first time, Europe's best endowed art award goes to a Frenchman. The Board of the Roswitha Haftmann Foundation has awarded the 2013 Roswitha Haftmann Prize – worth CHF 150,000 – to Pierre Huyghe (born 1962). The presentation will take place on 16 May 2013 in the Kunsthaus Zürich.

In his situations and films, Pierre Huyghe employs multiple levels of reality: an arrangement that initially appears random reveals itself to be a sophisticated construction, partly using simple means, that has a profound impact on its audience. As he dramatizes various models of presence between the viewer and his work, his role is akin to that of a director, creating inter-spaces and intermediate worlds in which art and life become one. Huyghe's work has already made an important contribution to contemporary art, and has continued to develop, especially in recent times. It is for these reasons that the Board voted unanimously to award the 2013 Roswitha Haftmann Prize to Pierre Huyghe.

PRIZEWINNER, ARTWORK AND AWARD CEREMONY

Pierre Huyghe was born in Paris in 1962. Between 1982 and 1985 he studied at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs, Paris. By the mid-1990s, his work could already be seen in significant exhibitions around the world. The appreciation of his work spread from France, Italy and Switzerland to the Nordic countries and thence to institutions in the US, where he was offered the chance to stage solo exhibitions. Today, Huyghe's activities span the globe. His works often start by intensifying the potential in a given body, institution, situation, biological entity, system or object. His live situations are constructed yet contingent and speculative. He sets the conditions for something to emerge, whether factual or imaginary, allowing a process of transformation. He questions the nature of the image and its condition of appearance and considers the exhibition as a medium in itself. Play and conversation are at the heart of his work and of his frequent collaborations. In 2012 he was invited to be part of Documenta (13) in Kassel. Over the course of many months he developed a site where plants, animals, a human and inanimate objects were left to themselves for the 100 days of the exhibition – a much discussed work hitting the headlines not only in the art world. In September 2013 he will have a major exhibition at the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, which will tour to the Museum Ludwig, Cologne and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

c/o Kunsthaus Zürich
Winkelwiese 4
Postfach
CH-8024 Zürich

Tel. 044 253 84 84
Fax 044 253 84 33

The award ceremony, which is expected to be attended by over 400 invited guests, takes place on 16 May 2013 in the Kunsthaus Zürich.

CHANGES TO THE BOARD

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 is chaired by Christoph Becker, Director of the Kunsthaus Zürich, and whose members also include the directors of the Kunstmuseum Bern, the Kunstmuseum Basel and the Museum Ludwig in Cologne. In 2012 the Board appointed two new members: Karola Kraus (Director of the Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna) and Bernhart Schwenk (Curator of Contemporary Art at the Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich).

Further information on the current and previous prize winners, the founder and the Foundation Board can be found at www.roswithahaftmann-foundation.com.

NOTE TO MEDIA

We are happy to provide up-to-date visual material in print quality or answer any questions. A meeting/interview with the artist can be arranged in Zurich on the day of the award ceremony. Please contact: Roswitha Haftmann Foundation, c/o Kunsthaus Zürich
Björn Quellenberg, +41 (0)44 253 84 11, bjoern.quellenberg@kunsthaus.ch