

# Roswitha Haftmann Stiftung

## Press release

Zurich, 24 August 2010

### Roswitha Haftmann Prize 2011 awarded to Carl Andre

**The 2011 Roswitha Haftmann Prize, Europe's best-endowed art award, goes to the first Minimalist sculptor, Carl Andre. Choreographer and graphic artist Trisha Brown is to receive a special prize.**

The Board of the Roswitha Haftmann Foundation has decided to bestow the 2011 award, worth 150,000 Swiss francs, to the American artist Carl Andre (born 1935), who lent new meaning to sculpture in the second half of the 20th century by turning away from the hermetic object towards the space surrounding it. His sculptural oeuvre, characterized by grandiose assemblages of lines, reliefs and planes, was the first to win the appellation 'Minimalist'. His innovative combination of antique, mainly natural materials and deployment of mass, space, volume and gravity create sites for his viewers' physical experience, a veritable invitation to enter the work of art. The Board awards Carl Andre the Roswitha Haftmann Prize in recognition of his innovative artistic achievement.

#### PRIZEWINNER AND PRESENTATION

Andre, born in 1935 in Quincy, Massachusetts, lives and works in New York. From 1951 to 1953 he attended Phillips Academy in Andover, and it was there the young sculptor met fellow student Frank Stella, with whom he would go on to collaborate in 1958 and 1959. Andre's first solo exhibition in 1965, at New York's Tibor de Nagy Gallery, ushered in a meteoric career featuring repeated showings at documenta in Kassel, as part of 'Live in your head: when attitude becomes form', Harald Szeemann's legendary 1969 group exhibition at the Kunsthalle Bern, and a 1970 solo exhibition at New York's Guggenheim Museum. Today Andre's works are to be found in prestigious public and private collections.

Carl Andre is the 11th winner of Europe's best-endowed award for art. The award ceremony is slated for spring 2011 at the Kunsthaus Zürich.

#### HISTORY OF THE FOUNDATION

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 legacy of the gallerist, as beautiful as she was wealthy, has since gained in esteem. The prizewinner is selected by the Members of the Board, which is made up of the directors of the

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

Tel. 044 253 84 84  
Fax 044 253 84 33

Kunstmuseum Bern, the Kunstmuseum Basel, the Museum Ludwig in Cologne and the Kunsthaus Zürich. Additional members are either individuals nominated in the Foundation's constitution or co-opted by the Members of the Board.

#### SPECIAL PRIZE FOR TRISHA BROWN

The deed of foundation provides for the jury to award special prizes at its discretion, the first of which was bestowed in 2007 on film-maker Jonas Mekas for his contribution to avant-garde cinema. The latest such prize is awarded to the American choreographer and artist Trisha Brown (born 1936). Having founded a company in 1970 Brown went on to make her name in the 1980s by collaborating with such artists as Robert Rauschenberg and Laurie Anderson on original productions. Brown, considered the inventor of post-modern dance, has created an oeuvre intimately enmeshed with the art world in both its geometric style and its penchant for unusual performance sites. She is happiest transgressing generic boundaries, and has in tandem with her choreographies produced works of graphic art shown at the Venice Biennale, documenta, the Centre Pompidou and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, among other venues. With the award of a special prize, worth 75,000 Swiss francs, the jury of the Roswitha Haftmann Foundation honours Brown for an incomparable interdisciplinary oeuvre of outstanding quality, developed over the course of decades and capable of constant refreshment.

For further information on the founder, the jury, the prize and past winners, please see [www.roswithahaftmann-foundation.com](http://www.roswithahaftmann-foundation.com).

For further press information and visual material, please contact  
Roswitha Haftmann Stiftung c/o Kunsthaus Zürich  
Kristin Steiner, +41 (0)44 253 84 13, [kristin.steiner@kunsthau.ch](mailto:kristin.steiner@kunsthau.ch)