

**The 2019 Prix de la Société des Arts • Arts Visuels • Genève
has been awarded to Renée Levi**



The art historian Karine Tissot chaired this year's Prix de la Société des Arts • Arts Visuels • Genève. On 29 October Ms. Tissot called together the jury, who awarded the 2019 Prix de la Société des Arts to Renée Levi.

Renée Levi

The Basel artist Renée Levi, who has achieved both a national and international stature, has dedicated her practice to abstract painting, but also does drawing and installation art. In the words of Claire Le Restif, director of the Crédac art center in France, Levi "is one of those artists who constantly look to vigorously enlarge and redefine the field of art and in particular – of direct interest to her – the field of painting." Levi originally studied architecture and has been teaching at Basel's School of Fine Arts (FHNW/HGK) since 2001. She has developed a body of work that in essence modifies viewers' perception of space by using very bright, even neon-bright, colors. Born in 1960 in Istanbul, she embodies a link between the different regions of Switzerland where she has created long-term pieces in public and semi-public venues, like the stairway of a clinic in Zurich, a bank in Basel, a city council meeting room in Lucerne, and the Montbrillant middle school in Geneva (*Le tapis volant*, 2003). In all of these venues, color is closely associated with the characteristics of the surrounding architecture.

In Geneva Renée Levi has exhibited at Mamco (2000 and 2015), La Villa du Parc in neighboring Annemasse (2014), and the Evergreen Gallery (2008). Internationally her work has been featured in a number of museums and prestigious galleries, including recently the Vin Vin Gallery in Vienna (2018), the Bernard Jordan Gallery in Paris (2014, 2015, and 2017), the Kunstverein in Munich (2015), the Stadtgalerie of Saarbrücken (2015), and Frac Bretagne in Rennes (2013).

With the 2019 prize, the Société des Arts is proud to single out once again a woman artist, following in the wake of Sylvie Fleury, who was awarded the prize in 2015. Experienced in mastering space with the pictorial, Renée Levi is sure to refashion the Salle Crosnier of the Palais de l'Athénée – built in 1864 to host the Société des Arts – into a singular event.

The Prix de la Société des Arts is awarded without a qualifying competition. It is a group decision taken by the members of the jury, each of whom draws on a completely independent search. This year's jury, appointed by Karine Tissot, comprised the following distinguished art professionals: Nathalie Herschdorfer (director of the Musée des Beaux-arts in Le Locle), Helen Hirsch (director of the Kunstmuseum of Thun), Chantal Molleur (curator of the Whiteframe project and professor at the Lucerne School of Art), Brita Polzer (art critic), and Josse Bailly (representative of the Société des Arts exhibition commission).

Le Prix de la Société des Arts • Arts Visuels • Genève

The Prix de la Société des Arts • Arts Visuels • Genève is a combination of several distinct prizes that the society awarded in the past (Calame • Diday • Harvey • Neumann • Spengler • Stoutz). Given out every two years since 2009, the Prix de la Société des Arts distinguishes a Swiss artist or non-Swiss artist living in Switzerland whose work has already drawn critical acclaim nationally and internationally, and who continues to demonstrate significant potential for development. The prize comes with a 50,000 CHF monetary award, raised through gifts and bequests that are earmarked exclusively for the Société des Arts prizes, as well as a solo show by the winning artist in the Salle Crosnier, and an accompanying publication.

To date the prize has been awarded to Francis Baudevin (2009), Christoph Büchel (2011), Gianni Motti (2013), Sylvie Fleury (2015), and !Mediengruppe Bitnik (2017).

Renée Levi's exhibition in the Salle Crosnier will open in September, 2019, and will remain on view for one month. For additional information: www.societedesarts.ch and reneelevi.ch

Contacts

Karine Tissot
Chair of the Prix de la Société des Arts
scullyka@gmail.com
+41 76 615 17 04

Sophie Eigenmann
Press relations
so.eigenmann@gmail.com
+41 78 726 67 00



2013 Haus Konstruktiv Zürich
'Bulevistan', 2013, 460 x 1150cm, 10-teilig, Acryl auf Baumwolle
in: Hot Spot Istanbul, türkische abstrakte, konkrete und konzeptionelle Kunst, kuratiert von Dorothea Strauss, Foto Stefan Altenburger



Turn your light down low, Performance mit zwei Overhead Projektoren und Leinwand
Foto Hans-Jörg Walter