

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

September 17th, 2009

## Carnegie Art Award 2010:

### **H.M. Queen Margrethe II hands out one of the world's largest art prizes**

**Carnegie Art Award, one of the largest art prizes in the world, is today handed out by H.M.**

**Queen Margrethe II of Denmark in ceremony at Kunsthal Charlottenborg in Copenhagen. Three winners and one scholarship recipient share a total of SEK 2,1 million. Concurrently, an exhibition featuring 23 of the most prominent Nordic artists right now is opened.**

Today the Icelandic artist Kristján Guðmundsson receives the first prize in Carnegie Art Award 2010. The Swedish artists Kristina Jansson and Felix Gmelin receive second and third prize respectively and Danish Marie Søndergaard Lolk receives the scholarship to a younger artist. Carnegie Art Award which belongs to one of the largest art prizes in the world is handed out by H.M. Queen Margrethe II of Denmark in a ceremony at Kunsthal Charlottenborg in Copenhagen.

In connection with the prize ceremony the Queen will inaugurate the exhibition that for the first time shows 50 art works by the 23 Nordic artists selected by the Carnegie Art Award jury. The jury comprises a handful of the most prominent connoisseurs of contemporary art in the Nordic such as **Tuula Arkio**, Cultural Counsellor, Honorary PhD in Visual Arts (Museum Director Emerita), Helsinki and **Iwona Blazwick**, Director, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London

- Never before has the attendance from nominators and artists been greater in the history of Carnegie Art Award, said the Chair of the jury, Mrs Tuula Arkio.

The selected participants and their works of art represent a cross section of the sentiment in the Nordic art scene right now. All works of art are made during the last two years and offer a comprehensive presentation in terms of expression and material.

The exhibition will be showing at Kunsthal Charlottenborg until November 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. Subsequently the exhibition tours the Nordic capitals, London, Beijing and Nice for a period of 18 months.

### **The prize winners**

#### **KRISTJÁN GUÐMUNDSSON**

Kristján Guðmundsson is awarded the Carnegie Prize of SEK 1,000,000 for his intriguing sound-absorbing paintings, made of acrylic on canvas mounted in metal panels, pursuing his unique explorations of the aesthetic dimension of painting and drawing with characteristic wit and visual sensibility. In the course of Guðmundsson's career that spans forty years, his art has consistently defied conventional logic by combining such disparate elements as colour and sound, breaking new ground in the examination of the medium of painting.

#### **KRISTINA JANSSON**

Kristina Jansson is awarded the Carnegie Prize of SEK 600,000 for her paintings that evoke a veritable echo of a place, strange, speechless, yet convincing and insistent. Breathtakingly exquisite, her paintings are profoundly sensual, yet with an eerie, uncanny, unheimlich quality. Her canvases are charged with an existential mood that appears, just then, just there, to be only attainable through painting!

## FELIX GMELIN

Felix Gmelin is awarded the Carnegie prize of SEK 400,000 for a work that is an almost archaeological exploration of the social and political ramifications of the tacitly and expressiveness of painting. A key topic in early performance art, Gmelin returns to this field of action in a complex work that reconsiders the painterly “touch” by passing through the media of film, painting and printed stills.

## MARIE SØNDERGAARD LOLK

The Carnegie scholarship of SEK 100,000 is awarded to Marie Søndergaard Lolk for her original contribution to the development of an artistic form that is both process-oriented and saturated in information. Her works explore the history of painting in subtle ways, while also displaying an impressive conceptual clarity and a materially impenetrable quality.

### The Artists of Carnegie Art Award 2010

Kjersti G. Andvig, NO	Kristján Guðmundsson, IS	Torben Ribe, DK
Anastasia Ax, SE	Kristina Jansson, SE	Sigrid Sandström, SE
Tone Kristin Bjordam, NO	Sergej Jensen, DK	Astrid Sylwan, SE
Milena Bonifacini, DK	Camilla Løw, NO	Egill Sæbjörnsson, IS
A K Dolven, NO	Jukka Mäkelä, FI	Marie Søndergaard Lolk, DK
Saara Ekström, FI	Ylva Ogland, SE	Marianna Uutinen, FI
Mads Gamdrup, DK	Jorma Puranen, FI	Hannu Väisänen, FI
Felix Gmelin, SE	Seppo Renvall, FI	

### The Jury of Carnegie Art Award 2010

**Tuula Arkio**, Chair, Cultural Counsellor, Honorary PhD in Visual Arts (Museum Director Emerita), Helsinki

**Gunnar J. Árnason**, Lecturer at the Iceland Academy of the Arts and art critic, Reykjavik

**Mikkel Bogh**, Rector, the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Schools of Visual Arts, Copenhagen

**Ina Blom**, Professor, IFIKK – Dept. of Art History, University of Oslo

**Iwona Blazwick**, Director, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London

**Lars Nittve**, Director, Moderna Museet, Stockholm

In connection with the inauguration of the exhibition the new website of Carnegie Art Award is launched on [www.carnegieartaward.com](http://www.carnegieartaward.com), The website is a digital platform for the participating artist where their works of art are presented in texts, photographs and moving images. The new website also contains a press room with high resolution images of the artists and the works of art in the exhibition.

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Visit also [www.scanpix.dk](http://www.scanpix.dk) and [www.polfoto.dk](http://www.polfoto.dk) for press images.