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Emilija Škarnulytė wins GASAG Art Prize 2022

Emilija Škarnulytė (*1987 in Vilnius, Lithuania) has been awarded the GASAG Art Prize 2022. As a visual artist and filmmaker, she tackles such themes as the history of civilisation, ecology, geology, ocean research and climate science. Footage for her suggestive, complex video installations has been shot in dystopian settings, including a former submarine base in the Arctic Circle in Norway, decommissioned Soviet nuclear reactors and radar stations. She has also filmed at research establishments like the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, the European nuclear research centre near Geneva.

Recently the artist based the work on mapping technologies, such as sonar, remote sensing and seafloor scanning, and set out to explore structures in the depths of the sea. These include Baia, an ancient Roman city now under water due to seismic activity in the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Mexico, where laboratory-bred corals are used to restore the ecosystems damaged in consecutive oil spills, among other sites.

Škarnulytė's video installations combine documentary images with fiction, blending the past with the present and future. Her works transport viewers into an imaginary, distant future: sea level has risen, humans have vanished, the technologies brought forth by our civilisation have fallen into ruin. The central character in many of her films is a mermaid, a mythical being to symbolise a potential post-human life form that has adapted to this new habitat. These meditative sequences lend tangible expression to human impacts that are altering the present and future fabric of the terrestrial system.

GASAG Art Prize

This is the seventh edition of the award initiated by GASAG and organised together with the Berlinische Galerie. Every two years, the partners honour an outstanding artistic contribution at the interface between art, science and technology. The GASAG Art Prize entails a site-specific exhibition at the Berlinische Galerie and the publication of a catalogue. The exhibition will be held in conjunction with Berlin Art Week 2022.

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Previous winners: Susanne Kriemann (2010), Tue Greenfort (2012), Nik Nowak (2014), Andreas Greiner (2016), Julian Charrière (2018) and Marc Bauer (2020)

Jury

The jury for the GASAG Art Prize 2022 was composed of:

Marc Bauer, winner of the GASAG Art Prize 2020; Andreas Fiedler, independent curator; Dr Thomas Köhler and Dr Stefanie Heckmann, Berlinische Galerie; Dr Christina Landbrecht, Schering-Stiftung; Birgit Rieger, Tagesspiegel; Dr Julia Wallner, Georg Kolbe Museum

The nominees for the GASAG Art Prize 2022 were:

Katja Aufleger, Lucy Beech, Anne Duk Hee Jordan, Emilija Škarnulytė, Claudia Wieser

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