

Press Release

January 18, 2018

ars viva 2018 in S.M.A.K. Gent



Kulturkreis
der deutschen
Wirtschaft

ars viva 2018

Anna-Sophie Berger | Oscar Enberg | Zac Langdon-Pole

February 10 until May 13, 2018

Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst Gent – S.M.A.K.



Berlin/Ghent. Since 1953, Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft im BDI e. V. (Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy at the Federation of German Industries e. V.) has awarded the annual *ars viva* Prize to young artists living in Germany, whose works are distinguished by their pioneering potential. In addition to a financial award, the prize includes exhibitions at two prestigious institutions in Europe, a residency at Fogo Island Arts in Canada, and the publication of a comprehensive bilingual catalog. After the first exhibition at Kunstverein München, awardees Anna-Sophie Berger, Oscar Enberg, and Zac Langdon-Pole are exhibiting in a newly conceived exhibition at the Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst Gent – S.M.A.K.



The work of the three winners sheds new light on the possibilities of contemporary sculpture. A starting point of **Anna-Sophie Berger's** (b. 1989 in Vienna, Austria) work is the study of objects that are taken from our everyday world and detection. Found objects are transformed through their displacement into new contexts. Through the selection of materials and strategies of recontextualization, Berger emphasizes the open interpretation of her works. Her sculptures play with the viewer's memories and perceptions and allow them to become an intrinsic part of the work.

Oscar Enberg's (b. 1988 in Christchurch, New Zealand) sculptures are compilations of various forms and materials that refer to film, literature, art, and society. The *mise en scène*, which the viewer finds in the exhibition space, consists of interwoven narrative strands. In the composition of these objects arises a series of associations and sculptural assemblages, which are furthered by historical references.

Zac Langdon-Pole's (b. 1988 in Auckland, New Zealand) artistic works are based on biographical stories and historical references, which he examines in terms of knowledge, power structures and their value systems. Questions about originality and tradition, origin and identity play a particular role. The artist himself becomes a storyteller who reflects what he has heard, reconstructs it, and then reconfigures it for the present.

Invitation to Press Conference and Exhibition Opening with the artists:

Press Conference:

Friday, February 9, 2018, 11:00

Speakers: Philippe Van Cauteren, Artistic Director, and Martin Germann, Senior Curator,
Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst Gent – S.M.A.K.

Exhibition Opening:

Friday, February 9, 2018, 20:00

Location: S.M.A.K., Jan Hoetplein 1, 9000 Ghent, Belgium

Jury *ars viva* Prize 2018

The jury, chaired by Ulrich Sauerwein, included members of the Kulturkreis' Committee of Fine Arts, as well as representatives from the cooperating institutional partners Chris Fitzpatrick (Kunstverein München), Martin Germann (S.M.A.K.), Zita Cobb (Shorefast Foundation/Fogo Island Arts), Nicolaus Schafhausen (Kunsthalle Wien, Fogo Island Arts) as well as advisor Krist Gruijthuijsen (KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin).

***ars viva* Prize**

The *ars viva* Prize includes a financial award of 5,000 EUR for each artist, two exhibitions in prestigious institutions for contemporary art, an extensive bilingual catalog, and the opportunity to participate in the Fogo Island Arts Residency Program.

Catalog

To accompany the exhibition, Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft published a catalog in German and English with essays by Simon Baier, Gürsoy Doğtaş, Gregory Kan, Laura McLean-Ferris, and Hans Ulrich Obrist. (Sternberg Press, ISBN: 978-3-95679-354-7)

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