

Press Release

Frankfurt/Main, 05.10.2020

ars viva 2021**Rob Crosse, Richard Sides, Sung Tieu****10 October 2020 until 31 January 2021****Press conference: Thursday, 8 October 2020, 11 am****Soft-Opening: Friday, 9 October 2020, from 10 am to 6 pm**

The 2021 *ars viva* award kicks-off with an exhibition opening at the Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt am Main on 9 October 2020. It presents works by the three award winners Rob Crosse (*1985), Richard Sides (*1985) and Sung Tieu (*1987). A second exhibition will be presented at the Kunstverein Hannover in spring 2021.

Rob Crosse, Richard Sides and Sung Tieu each address questions of human existence and the at times tension-laden coexistence of social groups. Their central medium is digital film, complemented by photography, drawing, installation, sound and objects.

With its focus on tabooed, critical and at times painful topics, the presentation of the *ars viva* award winners is in line with the exhibitions on current, political and social, but also historical fields of tension, which have been presented within the Museum Angewandte Kunst. In this way, the Museum opens up new perspectives on current positions within the applied and visual arts, tracing the fundamental relationships between society and its structures.

Since 1953, the 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 *ars viva* prize to outstanding young artists based in Germany under the age of 35. The jury honours works that demonstrate a distinct language of form and an awareness of contemporary issues relating to (cultural) history. Next to a monetary stipend, the award includes the cooperation with two international art institutions, an artist residency on Fogo Island (Canada) as well as an extensive bilingual catalogue.

This year's jury for the *ars viva* award, under the chairmanship of Ulrich Sauerwein, included members of the Visual Arts Committee of the Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft, as well as the cooperation partners Grit Weber (Museum Angewandte Kunst, Frankfurt/ Main), Kathleen Rahn and Sergey Harutoonian (Kunstverein Hannover), Willem de Rooij (Fogo Island Arts), Dr. Franziska Nentwig, Min-young Jeon and Mathilda Legemah (Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft) and Hilke Wagner (Albertinum, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden) as expert advisor.

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Artists

Rob Crosse

Rob Crosse was born in 1985 in Hertfordshire, UK, and studied photography at the Arts University Bournemouth and fine arts at the Slade School of Fine Art in London.

In his videos, performances and photographs, Rob Crosse places a strong focus on cross-generational relationships and explores topics such as care, vulnerability and forms of intimacy. Distinguished by a cautious approach and a tender and ever respectful gaze, his works show elderly homosexual men, often members of clubs, engaged in joint activities. A further concern of Crosse's works is the support required by old people and the related dependencies and power dynamics. Crosse deliberately addresses taboo themes such as sexual desire and attractiveness in old age and calls common body ideals into question. In an era when queer lifestyles are denigrated by – and under attack from – nationalist groups, the artist defines new forms of affiliation and masculinity in his art.

Crosse selected an eighteenth-century walking stick from the Museum collection and placed it on display in the exhibition in loose association with his practice.

Richard Sides

Richard Sides was born in 1985 in Rotherham, Great Britain, and studied Fine Arts at Sheffield Hallam University and the Royal College of Art in London.

A wide range of references, among them the internet, serve Richard Sides as an inexhaustible source for his artistic work. From the global archive of everyday life, he extracts images, music, texts and topics, which he then reassembles to create his art. In the process, he frequently examines how people deal with a media world characterized through and through by an economized world. Particularly in his videos, he uses hard, fast cuts to underscore the aggressive and conflictual nature of that interaction. For this exhibition he has developed an ensemble consisting of a multipartite bench and a mobile hanging from the ceiling. On the bench he mounted boxes that hold pictures and objects from his own collection. The basic structures of the bench parts are similar, but the various seat profiles force the would-be sitters' bodies to assume certain postures. Sides' room installations, image collages and objects possess a mundane and sometimes impromptu quality. In their specific materiality and construction, however, they make ongoing reference to the man-made, while at the same time framing a critical analysis of current capitalist structures.

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Sung Tieu

Sung Tieu was born in 1987 in Hai Duong, Vietnam and studied art at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste in Hamburg and at Goldsmiths College in London, graduating from the postgraduate program of the London Royal Academy of Arts.

In her video works, objects and spatial interventions, Sung Tieu explores primarily sociocultural and identity-political issues while seeking to fathom experiences of migration and foreignness. An important aspect of her work is the use of sound, which she investigates in its psychological dimension, turning the exhibition space into an experimental laboratory for sensorial perception in the process. Tieu crosses the documentary with the fictional, combines historical political events with biographical elements and expands the seemingly factual to encompass magical narratives. In *Parkstück*, on display here, she addresses the theme of social order and the regimentation of human interaction. The indivisible unity of the table and seat can ultimately stand for society's ideal image of the nuclear family in dissociation from other forms of co-existence.

From the Museum collection, the three artists jointly chose the furniture object *Tabula Rasa*, which enters into correspondence with the artworks on view in the exhibition.

Curator: Grit Weber

Junior Curator: Lieve Brocke

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In cooperation with:



ars viva 2021 is supported by:



and



Frankfurt cooperation partner of the 69th annual meeting of the Kulturkreis



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Director

Prof. Matthias Wagner K

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Information

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www.museumangewandtekunst.de

Opening hours

Tue, Thu-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, Wed 10am – 8 pm

Admission

12 Euro, reduced 6 Euro
The reduced admission price applies school and university students, persons with disabilities and their escorts and unemployed persons. Valid identification required.

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