



Announcing the winners of *ars viva* 2022: Tamina Amadyar | Lewis Hammond | Mooni Perry

Berlin. The winners of the *ars viva* 2022 award have been selected. 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.) presents this year's prize to Tamina Amadyar (*1989), Lewis Hammond (*1987), and Mooni Perry (*1990).

Since 1953, the Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft has awarded the *ars viva* prize to outstanding young artists based in Germany. The award honours work that demonstrates a distinct language of form and an awareness of contemporary issues. This year's prize includes exhibitions at the Brücke-Museum, Berlin and Kai Art Center, Tallinn, Estonia. Each artist receives a 5,000 Euro stipend. In addition, the Kulturkreis will produce a bilingual catalogue published by Kerber Verlag. The jury selected this year's winners from 55 nominated artists under the age of 35.

Tamina Amadyar's paintings combine studies of colour and form with moments of her own perception. In her paintings, she recalls the places she has been, particularly focusing on the experiences of light and space she has encountered on her travels to places like Afghanistan or California. Her often large-format paintings frequently place two colours in dialogue with one another. Her colour studies play with complementary contrast, overpainting, and geometrical forms. Using pigments mixed with rabbit-skin glue, Amadyar creates strikingly luminous colour fields that are applied in rapid strokes, giving her paintings space and structure.

Lewis Hammond's muted and earthy-toned paintings reveal sites of dystopian liminality. Hammond stages everyday scenes, some based on personal events, in the style of baroque painting. The works include representations of people from Hammond's private sphere as well as mental images of past encounters. On the border between surrealism and magical realism, ancient symbolic forms emerge and transfigure in connection with personal experiences. In this way, Hammond uses historical painting techniques to create contemporary artworks that offer a glimpse into the artist's vast and complex image-worlds.

Mooni Perry's artistic practice is informed by her investigations of human-animal studies, veganism, and (Asian-)feminism. Her research critically explores the intersections between these subjects and finds artistic expression in film-based works and installations. Her videos feature references to Korean poetry and theory as well as the use of vocal or instrumental performances. Perry combines interview sequences and documentary material with ambiguous representations of 3D-animated characters, thereby creating multi-layered video works.

The jury, chaired by Ulrich Sauerwein, consisted of members of the Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft's Committee for Visual Arts along with cooperating partners Lisa Marei Schmidt (Brücke-Museum, Berlin), Maria Helen Känd (Kai Art Center, Tallinn, Estonia), Nicolaus Schafhausen (Fogo Island Arts), and Min-young Jeon and Mathilda Legemah (Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft). Julia Grosse (Contemporary And, C&) served as an expert adviser.

An exhibition of work by the new *ars viva* winners will open on September 15, 2021 at the Brücke-Museum in Berlin. A second exhibition will take place at the Kai Art Center in Tallinn, Estonia. Due to the current situation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's jury competition was carried out in digital form.

Artist Biographies:

Tamina Amadyar, born 1989 in Kabul, AFG, studied Painting at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. From 2019 to 2021 she was a guest professor at the State Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe. She has had numerous exhibitions, including solo shows at Galerie Guido Baudach (2020), Oldenburger Kunstverein (2019), and Kunstverein Reutlingen. Her work was featured in a group exhibition at KINDL, Berlin in 2018 and at Salon Dahlmann, Berlin in 2016.

Lewis Hammond, born 1987 in Wolverhampton, UK, studied Fine Art at the Cass Faculty of Art, Architecture, and Design in London, UK before completing his postgraduate diploma in Painting at the Royal Academy Schools in London, UK. In 2016 he was awarded the Royal Academy Schools' *Prize for Painting*. In 2021 his work is on view at Casa Masaccio, San Giovanni Valdarno, ITA and in a group exhibition at X Museum, Beijing, CHN. He has had solo exhibitions at such venues as the galleries Lulu, Mexico City, MEX (2020) and Arcadia Missa, London, UK (2019). Additional group exhibitions include Fri Art Kunsthalle Fribourg, Fribourg, CHE; Antenna Space, Shanghai, CHN (2019); Peles Empire, Berlin; and Smart Objects, Los Angeles, USA (2018).

Mooni Perry was born 1990 in Seoul, KR. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting from Hongik University, Seoul, KR before graduating with a Master of Arts in Painting from the Royal College of Art in London, UK. Previous awards include a solo exhibition grant from the Seoul Foundation for Arts and Culture, KR, research funding from the Art Council Korea, KR (2019), research funding from the Senat für Kultur und Europa, Berlin, and a grant from the 2020/21 NEUSTART KULTUR funding programme (2020). CR Collective in Seoul, KR will present a solo exhibition of her work in 2021. Further solo exhibitions have been held at Bureau-cracy Studies, Lausanne, CHE (2020) and Post Territory Ujeongguk, Seoul, KR (2019). In 2021 her work is on view in group exhibitions at KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin and UM museum, Gyeonggi-do, KR.

All three prizewinners live and work in Berlin.

This year's *ars viva* is once again sponsored by HypoVereinsbank.

About HypoVereinsbank (UniCredit Bank AG):

*Sustainability is a central element of HypoVereinsbank's business strategy and part of the DNA of the UniCredit Group. HypoVereinsbank combines traditional banking with social responsibility and actively supports the communities in which it operates. It has a long tradition of supporting the arts and culture, which the bank sees as a means of promoting social and economic growth as well as creating a dialogue on innovation, fostering social cohesion and a sense of belonging. In 2020, HypoVereinsbank extended its long-standing commitment to the promotion of art and culture by supporting the *ars viva* prize as part of the bank's "Art4Future" initiative.*

Further information on HypoVereinsbank's promotion of art and culture:

<https://www.hypovereinsbank.de/hvb/ueber-uns/kultur-gesellschaft/kunst-kultur>

About the Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft:

The Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft is the longest-standing institution for entrepreneurial support of the arts in Germany. Since 1951 it has promoted emerging artists in the fields of architecture, visual arts, literature, and music through the contributions and donations of its members, which include Germany's leading companies. As a nationwide independent network, it connects culturally committed companies, business associations, corporate foundations, and entrepreneurs. The Kulturkreis thematises corporate arts sponsorship, represents the cultural policy interests of its members, and advocates for a society in which art and culture are understood as essential resources.

Further information on the *ars viva* prize awarded by the Kulturkreis: <https://arsviva.kulturkreis.eu>

Additional information and press photos are available at:

<https://www.kulturkreis.eu/presse/>

Contact

Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft im BDI e. V.

Sabrina Schleicher
Communication
Haus der Deutschen Wirtschaft
Breite Straße 29
D-10178 Berlin
T +49 (0)30-20 28-17 59
s.schleicher@kulturkreis.eu

Min-young Jeon / Mathilda Legemah
Visual Arts Department
Haus der Deutschen Wirtschaft
Breite Straße 29
D-10178 Berlin
T +49 (0) 30-20 28-14 97
m.jeon@kulturkreis.eu, m.legemah@kulturkreis.eu