



Announcing the winners of *ars viva* 2023: Paul Kolling | Shaun Motsi | Leyla Yenirce

Berlin. The winners of the *ars viva* 2023 award have been selected. This year, 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 prestigious prize to Paul Kolling (*1993), Shaun Motsi (*1989), and Leyla Yenirce (*1992). With *ars viva* 2023, the Kulturkreis celebrates the 70th anniversary of the award.

Every year since 1953, the Kulturkreis has awarded the *ars viva* prize for visual arts to outstanding young artists based in Germany. More than 350 artists have been honoured to date, including Georg Baselitz, Katharina Sieverding, Albert Oehlen, Rosemarie Trockel, Candida Höfer, Thomas Ruff, Wolfgang Tillmanns, Thomas Struth, Jeanne Faust, Omer Fast, Peter Piller, and Mariana Castillo Deball.

The jury focuses on work that demonstrates a distinct language of form and an awareness of contemporary issues in relation to (cultural) history. This year's prize includes exhibitions at the Goethe-Institut Paris, France, and the Haus der Kunst in Munich, as well as an artist residency on Fogo Island, Canada. 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 award winners from 43 nominated artists under the age of 35.

Through projects rooted in technology and research, **Paul Kolling's** artistic practice explores current questions concerning economics, ecology, and infrastructure. Working with complex technical and digital systems, he creates installations, sculptures, and hybrid pieces that move between analogue and digital space. His multimedia works aim to provide a better understanding of these often abstract and complicated topics while opening up new perspectives on them.

Using painting, installation, and text, **Shaun Motsi** examines various aspects of cultural narratives and how they interconnect in a global context. His works focus on the question of how knowledge and information are constructed, inherited and appropriated across temporal and geographical spaces. They reference western high and pop culture, and the artist's own experiences. Questions about representation of POC in American culture also play a role in his artistic practice as well as the blurring of the line between identity and aesthetics qua representation.

In her videos, installations, and performances, **Leyla Yenirce** engages with multifaceted aspects and issues of Kurdish-Yazidi culture as well as her own identity. Using found footage, she often creates cinematically staged pieces that explore subjects like feminism, war, pop culture, genocide, desire, longing, and irony. Sound is a central element of the artist's work and is used in a strategic manner in her visually powerful productions.

The jury, chaired by Ulrich Sauerwein, consisted of members of the Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft's Committee for Visual Arts along with cooperating partners Nicolas Ehler (Goethe-Institut Paris, France), Emma Enderby and Dr. Jana Baumann (Haus der Kunst, Munich), Nicolas Schafhausen and Micaela Dixon (Fogo Island Arts, Canada), and Min-young Jeon and Maximilian Kraus (Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft). Maurin Dietrich (Kunstverein München) served as an expert adviser.

The exhibitions by the new *ars viva* winners including site specific works will open on September 16, 2022 at the Goethe-Institut Paris and in spring/summer 2023 at the Haus der Kunst in Munich.

Artist Biographies:

Paul Kolling, born 1993 in Kandel, DE, studied Fine Art at the Berlin University of the Arts and completed his master's studies in Fine Art at the University of Fine Arts, Hamburg. Kolling has held a teaching position at the Berlin University of the Arts since 2020 and has participated in the Berlin Programme for Artists since 2021. His work has been shown at numerous exhibitions, including group shows at The Shed, New York, USA (2021), Kunstverein in Hamburg, DE (2021), the German Pavilion, 17th International Architecture Biennale, Venice, IT (2021), and the Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna, AT (2019), and solo shows at the Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof, Hamburg, DE (2020) and the Shimao Maritime Silk Road Museum, Fujian, CHN (2020). His work is currently on view at the Weltmuseum Wien, Vienna, AT and at the CAFA Art Museum in Beijing, CHN, as part of the Beijing Art and Technology Biennale.

Shaun Motsi, born 1989 in Harare, ZWE, studied Fine Art at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main until 2020. He won the Sammlung Pohl Graduate Prize in 2020 as well as the Städelschule's Colliers International Rundgang Prize. His work has been included in numerous group exhibitions at such venues as Elvira, Frankfurt am Main, DE (2021), Shedhalle, Zurich, CH (2020), Portikus, Frankfurt am Main, DE (2020), PS120, Berlin, DE (2019), TOR Art Space, Frankfurt am Main, DE (2018), and the IX Berlin Biennale, Berlin, DE (2016). He has had solo exhibitions at Page NYC, New York, USA (2019) and PSM, Berlin, DE (2017), among others.

Leyla Yenirce, born 1992 in Qubın, TR, completed her studies in Metropolitan Culture at HafenCity University Hamburg in 2015. She went on to study Fine Art at the University of Fine Arts, Hamburg. Yenirce has received numerous awards, including the Karl H. Ditze Prize (2020), the Federal Prize for Art Students (2021), the exhibition and catalogue grant of the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation (2021), and the Playground Art Prize. She is also a fellow of the Heinrich Böll Foundation's scholarship programme for young talent. She has participated in group shows at such venues as Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, DE (2021/2022), the Kurdish Film Festival, Berlin, DE (2020), Kunstverein in Hamburg, DE (2020), and Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof in Hamburg, DE (2019). In autumn 2022, the Kunsthau Hamburg will present her work in a solo exhibition.

Cooperating Partners:

Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut takes up trends in Germany and promotes international cultural collaboration around the world through cultural events and festival contributions in the fields of film, dance, music, theatre, exhibitions, literature, and translation, among other things. In the field of fine art, the Goethe-Institut initiates and promotes group and solo exhibitions across all areas: painting, sculpture, graphic arts, architecture, photography, media art, design, and fashion.

Haus der Kunst

Haus der Kunst is a non-collecting public museum and a key global center for contemporary art. It is dedicated to the exploration of the diverse histories of contemporary art based on a foundation of focused exhibitions, performance and music events, and education.

Fogo Island Arts

Fogo Island Arts (FIA) is a residency-based contemporary art and ideas organization that supports research, production and exchange for artists, filmmakers, writers, musicians, curators, designers and thinkers from around the world.

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: <https://arsviva.kulturkreis.eu>

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

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