



Announcing the winners of *ars viva* 2024:

Atiéna R. Kilfa | Daniel Lie | caner teker

Berlin. The winners of the *ars viva* 2024 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.) awards this prestigious prize for young artists in the field of visual arts to Atiéna R. Kilfa (*1990), Daniel Lie (*1988), and caner teker (*1994).

The jury focuses on work that demonstrates a distinctive language of form and an awareness of contemporary issues in relation to (cultural) history. This year's prize includes exhibitions at the Rudolf-Scharpf-Gallery of the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum in Ludwigshafen and at Belvedere 21 in Vienna, Austria. It also includes an artist residency on Fogo Island, Canada. The jury selected this year's winners from 48 nominated artists under the age of 35 who live and work in Germany.

Atiéna R. Kilfa uses photography, sculpture, video, and installation to explore the perception of media images and the entanglement of personal and cultural memory: How are cinematic techniques used to control moments of aesthetic experience at the level of image and sound? What do these techniques refer to, not only in terms of the history of film, but also in terms of cultural history? Mannequins that Kilfa has collected as part of her research form central reference points in her work. For the artist, these black and brown figures stand, on the one hand, for the post modern fascination with "mannequin art"; at the same time, they initiate a paradigm shift by producing narratives entrenched in a division between who counts as living, and who, or what, is consigned to death.

Daniel Lie's work includes performances, illustrations, and large-scale installations. "Non-human beings" such as bacteria, fungi, plants, and minerals are the actors in Lie's work, which often stages decay as a means of visualizing the processual. Natural cycles of transformation as well as the interdependence within ecological processes of exchange are rendered strikingly visible. Through ecosystems, the coexistence of different living beings is brought into focus, highlighting a continuous participation in the processes of life, death, and decomposition.

caner teker uses the means of performance to address the intersectional entanglement of identity, labor, and postmigration in the context of personal experience and family history. Among other things, the performances deal with West Asian cultural history and traditional oil wrestling, in which fighting poses mutate into a gesture of tenderness between the performers – a phenomenon that can also be observed in the templates of traditional male oil wrestling matches. Bodies "beyond the mainstream" that correspond to teker's "ideal image of the queer, anti-capitalist, intersectional as well as transformative" are the focus of the performances.

This year's jury included cooperation partners Dr. Astrid Ihle (Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen), Luisa Ziaja (Belvedere 21, Vienna, Austria), Nicolaus Schafhausen and Kitty Scott (Fogo Island Arts, Canada), Lisa Gersdorf (frieze Magazine), members of the Visual Arts Committee of the Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft chaired by Ulrich Sauerwein and Min-young Jeon (Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft). Anna Goetz (Marta Herford) served as an expert adviser.

An exhibition of site-specific works by the new *ars viva* award winners will open on October 12, 2023 at the Rudolf-Scharpf-Gallery of the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum in Ludwigshafen, Germany. A second exhibition will be held in spring 2024 at Belvedere 21 in Vienna, Austria.

Cooperating Partners *ars viva* 2024:

Wilhelm-Hack-Museum

Opened in 1979, the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum in Ludwigshafen is the most important museum for 20th and 21st-century art in Rhineland-Palatinate. It houses a diverse collection of medieval, modern, and contemporary art, including a selection of 20th-century artworks that trace the development of abstraction. The Rudolf-Scharpf-Gallery is the most recent showcase of the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum. It is located in a separate building in the historic Hemshof district and serves primarily as a project and exhibition space for contemporary art.

Belvedere 21

Belvedere 21 is the Austrian Belvedere Gallery's annexe for contemporary art. The open and spacious building – a key work of Austrian post-war modernism – serves as a vibrant space for artistic and curatorial experimentation, a place where art is facilitated, society is questioned, and the public is formed. The museum's exhibition activities focus on artistic production in an international context from the 1960s to the present. In addition to three exhibition levels, the overall concept of Belvedere 21 includes the Blickle Cinema, a studio for art education, and a sculpture garden.

Fogo Island Arts

Fogo Island Arts (FIA) is an organization for contemporary art and a workshop for ideas, supporting research, production, and exchange for artists, filmmakers, writers, musicians, curators, designers, and thinkers from around the world.

***ars viva* 2024 media partner: frieze Magazine**

Founded in London in 1991, frieze Magazine is one of the leading international magazines for art and culture. frieze highlights the provocative and brilliant voices shaping and challenging today's art world. With offices in London, New York, Berlin, Seoul, and L.A., and correspondents around the world, frieze publishes interviews, essays, opinion pieces, and reviews from today's most exciting artists, curators, and writers.

About Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft

The Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft (Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy at the Federation of German Industries e. V.) is Germany's longest established institution for corporate arts sponsorship. With the contributions and donations of its approximately 350 members, it has been supporting artists in the fields of architecture, visual arts, literature, and music since 1951. As a nationwide independent network, it brings together culturally engaged companies, business associations, corporate foundations, and entrepreneurs. The Kulturkreis thematizes corporate arts sponsorship, represents the

cultural policy interests of its members, and advocates for a society in which art and culture are seen as indispensable resources. Since 1953, the Kulturkreis has awarded the annual *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 Tillmans, Thomas Struth, Jeanne Faust, Omer Fast, Peter Piller, and Mariana Castillo Deball.

Further information about the *ars viva* prize is available at: <https://arsviva.kulturkreis.eu/en/>

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