

The *ars viva* 2027 award winners are: Hemansingh Lutchmun | Yoora Park | Luciano Pecoits

Berlin, March 2, 2026: The winners of the 2027 *ars viva* award have been announced: The prestigious award for young visual artists is being presented by the Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft this year to Hemansingh Lutchmun (born 1995), Yoora Park (born 1991) and Luciano Pecoits (born 1999).

Since 1953, the Kulturkreis has presented the annual *ars viva* Prize for Visual Arts to exceptional young artists under the age of 35 residing in Germany. Since then, more than 350 artists have been honoured, including Rosemarie Trockel, Candida Höfer, Wolfgang Tillmans, Omer Fast, Cemile Sahin, and Sung Tieu.

The jury focuses on artistic positions that develop an independent formal language and reflect on social and cultural issues. From a total of 54 nominations, a shortlist of 13 artists was formed, who presented their work to the jury. **After intensive discussions, Hemansingh Lutchmun, Yoora Park and Luciano Pecoits were selected for their artistic work.**

The award winners at a glance:

Hemansingh Lutchmun (born 1995) lives and works in Frankfurt am Main and Goodlands in Mauritius. Through his work in film, sculpture and installation, he explores the enduring structures of colonial history and its nostalgia. He also questions how these infrastructures continue to define hierarchies of taste, class, and access.

He studied at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main. He has received several awards and scholarships, including the Albig Foundation Photography Prize (2024), the Deutschlandstipendium (2021) and the DAAD Prize (2019). His work has been exhibited in solo and group shows at venues including the Kunstverein Freiburg, the Biennale für Freiburg, the Neue Alte Brücke in Frankfurt am Main, the Goethe-Institut Ireland and the 1822 Forum of the Frankfurter Sparkasse.

Jury statement: *Lutchmun's work deals with the persistence of colonialism and its operation in landscapes, languages, and social structures. Drawing on personal conversations and historical references, he explores issues of erasure, conditional inclusion, and authorship. His video works connect individual narratives with broader political contexts, demonstrating the how class relations, racialized hierarchies, and working realities remain structurally ingrained in the present day.*

Yoora Park (born 1991) lives and works in Düsseldorf and Seoul. She combines audio, sculpture, video, and installation to create precisely composed spatial situations. Park studied at the Düsseldorf Art Academy and the Academy of Media Arts Cologne. She has exhibited her work in solo and group exhibitions at venues including K21, which is part of the North Rhine-Westphalia Art Collection in Düsseldorf; Art Basel; Galerie Khoshbakht (Cologne, Basel and New York); Kunstverein Gastgarten in Hamburg; and the Wesel Municipal Museum. Park has received numerous awards, including the Peter Mertes Scholarship and the Chargesheimer Scholarship for Media Art, both in 2023. Her works are included in the K21 collection, among others.

Jury statement: *Yoora Park has a keen sensitivity to how sound exists in the world and shapes our environment. In her work, she explores how sound permeates architectural spaces and shapes perception. Through her interaction with sculptural forms and found objects, she challenges our sensory perception and creates atmospheres that demonstrate how acoustic structures influence our relationship with space.*

Luciano Pecoits (born 1999) lives and works between Munich and Vienna. In his artistic practice, he critically examines historical materials, archives and institutional narratives. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. He also studied as a guest student at the University of Applied Arts and the University of Vienna, where he studied archival science and art and cultural studies. His works are currently on display at the Haus am Waldsee in Berlin. Previously, they were

presented at the Kunsthaus Dahlem in Berlin, and the Münchner Kammerspiele in Munich, as well as the Lothringer 13 Halle in Munich, among other venues.

Jury statement: *Luciano Pecoits uses artistic, scientific and provenance-related methods to reinterpret art spaces and artworks, revealing previously overlooked connections. Through textual works and photographic processes, he sheds light on the history of objects and how they circulate, questioning how we use artefacts to write history.*

The prize is worth a total of €120,000 and includes two exhibitions at the **Overbeck-Gesellschaft Kunstverein Lübeck e.V.** and the **Haus der Kunst in Munich**, an artist residency at Fogo Island Arts in Canada, prize money and the publication of a bilingual catalogue.

The **first exhibition** will open **at the Overbeck-Gesellschaft in spring 2027**. This will be followed by a presentation at the Haus der Kunst in Munich in early summer. Moreover, the prize winners will participate in a residency programme on Fogo Island in Canada. This programme fosters interdisciplinary exchange with international cultural professionals.

This year's jury was chaired by **Ulrich Sauerwein** and consisted of members of the Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft and representatives of partner institutions: **Professor Christian Klawitter** (Overbeck Society, Lübeck), **Marlene Muetzel** (Haus der Kunst, Munich) and **Kitty Scott** (Fogo Island Arts, Canada). **Anna Gritz** (Haus am Waldsee, Berlin) acted as an external consultant to the jury. Min-young Jeon (Curatorial Director) participated on behalf of the Kulturkreis.

The ars viva Prize is sponsored by the Péter Horváth Foundation. Its founder, Prof. Dr. Péter Horváth, fled Hungary for Germany as a young student in 1956 and went on to become a successful scientist and entrepreneur. But he also loved art. Promoting young talent was always a particular concern of his. The Péter Horváth Foundation therefore promotes exchange between Hungary and Germany, as well as projects by young economists and emerging artists.



About the Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft

Founded in 1951, the Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft is the oldest institution for corporate cultural promotion in Germany. As an independent network of committed companies, it advocates artistic freedom as a central pillar of democracy. For over 70 years, its work has focused on promoting young talent in architecture, the visual arts, literature and music. Thanks to membership fees and donations, the Kulturkreis has supported many artists at the start of their careers, including notable figures such as Heinrich Böll, Ingeborg Bachmann, Günter Grass, Georg Baselitz, Sabine Meyer, Katharina Sieverding, Tabea Zimmermann, Rosemarie Trockel, Candida Höfer, Robert Menasse and Thomas Demand.

About the Péter Horváth Foundation

The Péter Horváth Foundation promotes science, art, culture and international understanding. Specifically, it supports applied economic research, arts and cultural projects, and relations between Germany and Hungary. In all three areas, there is a particular focus on supporting young talent. The Foundation was established in 2002 by Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Péter Horváth (1937-2022). He was known for his courageous decisions, infectious passion, and entrepreneurial spirit. The Péter Horváth Foundation continues his life's work.

Further information is available at:

<https://arsviva.kulturkreis.eu>

Press photos:

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

CONTACT

Anna Langhans Senior Communication Manager

Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft
Haus der Deutschen Wirtschaft
Breite Straße 29
10178 Berlin

T: +49 151 6278 4948
E: a.langhans@kulturkreis.eu

Min-young Jeon Curatorial Director of Visual Arts

Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft
Haus der Deutschen Wirtschaft
Breite Straße 29
10178 Berlin

T: +49 (0)30-20 28-14 97
E: m.jeon@kulturkreis.eu