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Shortlist Prix de Rome announced by the Mondriaan Fund

The Mondriaan Fund has announced the names of the visual artists shortlisted by an international jury for the 2013 Prix de Rome. The four nominated artists are:

Christian Friedrich (1977)

Falke Pisano (1978)

Remco Torenbosch (1982)

Ola Vasiljeva (1981)

They will each receive a working budget of €7,500 and will be given the opportunity to create a new work during a five-month residency which will be exhibited at de Appel arts centre in Amsterdam. On the basis of the new work, the jury will announce a winner on 5 November 2013.

This year the Prix de Rome is using a system of scouts for the first time: the jury selected the four nominees from a longlist of 49 artists compiled by 35 scouts. The jury were surprised to see how few duplications there were. Only eight artists were nominated by more than one scout. As a result, the jury had a very difficult task to select just four nominees.

Also striking was the amount of performance art on the longlist, based on performance-related productions in various types of media and installations. In selecting the four nominees the jury decided to allow the slight overrepresentation of this discipline compared, for example, to traditional disciplines such as painting, drawing, sculpture and photography, to shine through.

The jury is delighted to be able to nominate four very special artists for the 2013 Prix de Rome. They are all entirely different from one another but also reveal subtly interacting interests and create art that both inspires and confronts. The work plans, which formed part of the jury's deliberations, lead it to believe that it will be no easy matter to assess the art produced during the upcoming residency period and choose a winner.

The four nominated artists were proposed by the scouts who made the following recommendations:

Curator Maaïke Lauwaert on **Ola Vasiljeva**: "She is an artist who works with a wide range of media (...) Her works, installations, constellations are not immediately understandable (...) Despite its slightly absurd character, there is a logic and balance in her work, and it is readily identifiable as being truly of our time. (...) Vasiljeva's universe may indeed be populated by recognisable and less recognisable forms; they are all lost in this world."

Art historian Jeroen Boomgaard on **Falke Pisano**: "Falke incorporates theory and research into presentations that attempt to encompass the complexity of the theory without lapsing into oversimplified illustrations. Her work is theoretical in the sense that it makes an important visual and discursive contribution to contemporary thinking." (Falke Pisano was also nominated by art collector Maurice van Valen.)

Visual artist Rosella Biscotti on **Remco Torenbosch**: "Torenbosch's research within the language and structure of conceptual art brings forward a really important and strong artist's position within the

contemporary political context of Holland and Europe. Torenbosch's work addresses the identity of Europe and its Utopia, trying to remind us that desire, struggle and ideals are not just symbols, colours or political positions far away from the common public sphere, but collective thoughts and communitarian actions."

Curator Martijn van Nieuwenhuyzen on **Christian Friedrich**: "The structure and editing of his films are experimental and are a complete departure from the accepted cinematographic structure which suggests continuity and movement. (...) Friedrich is an interesting contemporary artist for whom a residency as part of the Prix de Rome would be an excellent opportunity to take his fascinating new project to the next level."

The Prix de Rome is the oldest and largest Dutch prize for visual artists below the age of 40. The purpose of the prize is to identify talented visual artists and to encourage them to develop and increase their visibility. The prize is being organised by the Mondriaan Fund for the first time this year. The winner will win €40,000 and a residency in Rome.

The jury comprises: Kathleen Bühler (curator, Kunstmuseum Bern), Ann Goldstein (director, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam), Nicoline van Harskamp (visual artist and winner of the 2009 Prix de Rome), Navid Nuur (visual artist) and Domeniek Ruyters (editor-in-chief, Metropolis M). The chairman is Birgit Donker (director, Mondriaan Fund).

Note for the press:

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