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ADKV-ART COLOGNE Prize for Kunstvereine 2025

14 art associations nominated ++ 17 direct applications received from Kunstvereine

Berlin/Cologne, 26.06.2025

The Working Group of German Art Associations (ADKV) and ART COLOGNE are conferring the Prize for Kunstvereine once again this year. The prize has been jointly awarded since 2006 to celebrate innovative exhibition practice and outstanding mediation work. It also honours the cultural-political aspects and the on-site open discourse generated by these Kunstvereine.

The ongoing interest in this traditional nation-wide prize, which supports the work of the 308 associations organised within the ADKV and sets a signal for dedicated, democratic, civic commitment, underlines its continual relevance within the German art landscape.

The prize winners are selected by an independent jury comprised of five members of the ADKV, and are selected from nominations and applications. This year 17 direct applications were submitted by ADKV member associations.

As every year 16 nominators - personalities from the exhibition industry, artists, freelance curators and theorists - were invited to nominate art associations for the prize. Due to double nominations, 14 associations were nominated in total.

This year the ADKV has further developed the prize procedure and has, for the first time, placing emphasis on regions with lower density of Kunstvereine, inviting experts familiar with these regions to nominate spaces. Furthermore, three cartes blanches were issued, which were allowed to freely nominate all of the art associations throughout Germany organised in the ADKV as well as five associations from Austria.

Regardless of the geographical location, size or media presence of the art associations, it was thus to be guaranteed that all member associations of the ADKV potentially had a chance of being nominated.

The following art associations have been nominated: (In alphabetical order acc. to town)

nGbK, Berlin
Kunstverein Tiergarten/ Galerie Nord, Berlin



ART COLOGNE
06.11. - 09.11.2025
www.artcologne.com

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Oliver Frese

Chairwoman of the Supervisory Board:
Mayor of the City of Cologne
Henriette Reker

Headquarters and place of jurisdiction:
Cologne
District Court Cologne, HRB 952



Neuer Essener Kunstverein
 riesa efau, Dresden
 Kunstverein Freiburg
 Kunstverein Langenhagen
 Kunsthalle Lingen
 Kunstverein Ludwigshafen
 Overbeck Gesellschaft, Lübeck
 DG Kunstraum Diskurs und Gegenwart, Munich
 kunstraum Munich
 Kunstverein Siegen
 Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart
 Kunstverein Freunde aktueller Kunst, Zwickau

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The prize winner will be announced in September. The prize money of EUR 8,000 is donated by ART COLOGNE. The first art trade fair in the world is thus honouring the dedicated work of the art associations in mediating contemporary art.

The art association institutions, which are still supported by civic commitment today, look back on an over 200-year history in Germany. Founded in 1980, in its capacity as the umbrella and trade association, the Working Group of German Art Associations currently unites around 300 art associations (Kunstvereine). In the year 2021, the German UNESCO Commission included the art association institution in the nationwide directory of intangible cultural heritage.

The criteria for awarding the prize encompass the following points:

- Promotion of contemporary art in the regional and international context
- Continual presentation of modern art in exhibitions as well as temporary projects outside of established art institutions
- Discovery of experimental artistic approaches
- Development of new presentation and exhibition formats
- Visualisation of the traditions of current art
- Innovative art mediation through guided tours, discussions, supporting programmes and the likes.
- Addressing current, socially relevant themes
- Development of interdisciplinary networks at regional and national level
- Cultural-political work and discourse on-site

Prize winners of the ADKV-ART COLOGNE prize for art associations to-date:

Global Forest (2024), Dortmunder Kunstverein (2023), Bonner Kunstverein (2022),
 Halle für Kunst in Lüneburg (2020), KV-Verein für zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig
 (2019), Temporary Gallery, Cologne (2018), Hartware MedienKunstVerein, Dortmund
 (2017), Kunstverein Arnsberg und Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof, Hamburg (2016);
 Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf (2015); Bielefelder
 Kunstverein (2014); Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k.) (2013), Badischer
 Kunstverein, Karlsruhe (2012); Kunstverein Nürnberg - Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft
 (2011); Kölner Kunstverein (2010); Heidelberger Kunstverein (2009); Salzburger
 Kunstverein & Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster (2008); Kunstverein Wolfsburg
 (2007); ACC Galerie Weimar (2006).

Further information is available on the [website of the ADKV](#).

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