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ART COLOGNE: Here are the ADKV prize winners for 2025

Noemi Y. Molitor distinguished with the ADKV-ART COLOGNE Prize for Art Criticism 2025 ++ Dresdner Kunstverein awarded the ADKV-ART COLOGNE Prize for Art Associations 2025 ++ In cooperation with the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Kunstvereine (ADKV), ART COLOGNE is awarding the prizes endowed with 5,000 and 8,000 Euro respectively

Award for Art Criticism

The texts of this year's prize winner, Noemi Y. Molitor, unite precise formal analysis, cultural-scientific depth of focus and a pronounced sense for political contexts. The five-member jury, consisting of Gürsoy Dogtas (Munich), Annekathrin Kohout (Leipzig), Eva Kraus (Bonn), Vanessa Joan Müller (Vienna) and last year's prize winner Martin Conrads (Berlin), spoke unanimously in favour of Noemi Y. Molitor as the prize winner of the ADKV-ART COLOGNE Prize for Art Criticism 2025, convinced by her thematic diversity, her multi-perspectival reflection on different art sectors and contexts as well as her varied form of expression.

Noemi Y. Molitor is seen as an independent and defining voice in German-language art criticism. Her texts unite precise formal analysis, cultural-scientific depth of focus and a pronounced sense for political contexts. This combination is made possible by a rare form of multiple qualification: Molitor received her doctorate from the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies of Emory University (USA) and works, parallel with her activity as an author, as a visual artist in the fields of painting, installation and comics. As a result, she has insight into the levels of production, reception and discourse and stringently merges these different perspectives. With clear language and a variety of approaches, from feminist theory to postcolonial and queer perspectives, she makes complex themes accessible to a broad public and positions art critically in the societal context.

The prize has been awarded since 1999 by the ADKV and in cooperation with ART COLOGNE since 2006. The award, endowed with 5,000 Euro, honours the engagement of freelance art critics who deal with contemporary art and its social context in the trade and daily press or in other media. In the interest of artists and art associations, the ADKV-ART COLOGNE Prize for Art Criticism contributes to strengthening high-quality cultural journalism.

Award for Art Associations

An independent jury chose the Kunstverein Dresden e.V. as this year's winner of the Award for Art Associations, endowed with EUR 8,000. It has also been jointly awarded by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Kunstvereine (ADKV) and ART COLOGNE since 2006. It is the only nationally awarded prize for art associations and



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honours the exemplary work and engagement of the 308 art associations distributed throughout Germany. This engagement was included in 2021 in the national UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

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With this year's award, the jury honours the engagement of the Kunstverein Dresden, founded in 2017, which brings a variety of ambitious artistic positions into a dialogue with current societal themes and promotes values like empathy, cultural diversity, joy in experimentation and ecological responsibility.

The exhibitions of the art association reflect themes like identity, coexistence, the relationship between nature and human beings and political responsibility. The Kunstverein Dresden brings artistic positions often being shown in Germany for the first time into a local context, thus linking international perspectives with regional questions and contexts. This depth of content is complemented by art education going beyond classic guided tours: discussion formats, readings, workshops and participatory projects enable a variety of points of access to art and stimulate involvement and the formation of differentiated opinions. Through cooperation with initiatives on location, platforms for exchange and participation come into being that address a broad audience that is also not always very familiar with art.

The jury emphasises that the association sees itself as a platform for interdisciplinary encounters. Through the close cooperation with artists, activists, curators and academics, sustainable networks are formed that have an impact both locally and nationally. The association clearly positions itself as a force for openness, dialogue and democratic participation and creates spaces for critical thinking and joint action with its engagement. Through the quality of its programme, its societal relevance and its joy in experimentation, the association contributes substantially to the vitality of the German art association landscape and at the same time provides a cultural-political signpost for the future.

Members of the jury in 2025 were: Linhan Balabat-Helbock (Co-Director of Savvy Contemporary, Berlin), Amely Deiss (Head of the Kunstpalais and the Städtische Sammlung, Erlangen), Daniel Herrmann, (Artistic Director of Werkleitz Gesellschaft e.V., Halle), Kathrin Meyer (Director of Museum Sinclair-Haus, Bad Homburg) and Katharina Ritter (Artistic Director of Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken).

The jury chose the prize winner from 14 nominees and 17 initiative applications from the art associations organised in the ADKV. Like every year, 16 people from the art and cultural realm were active in advance as nominators. The number of 14 nominations is due to double nominations. The nomination for the ADKV-ART COLOGNE Prize for Art Associations is a highly respected distinction. Many art associations have been nominated several times without being awarded the prize. This in no way diminishes the importance of their work and their engagement. On the contrary, it is the art associations that have been nominated multiple times that generate recognition and attention as lighthouse projects for the entire art association landscape.

ART COLOGNE will this year produce a video of the prize winner and release it at the website leading up to the art fair.

About ART COLOGNE 2025

The 58th edition of ART COLOGNE will take place between 6 and 9 November 2025 and introduce a high-quality and carefully curated programme. Over four days, **165 galleries from 25 countries** will present a varied and high-quality exhibition programme.

As the most important meeting point for galleries, collectors and art institutions in Germany, the world's first art fair provides not only a broad offering of modern and contemporary art, but also a place for exchange, inspiration and social reflection.

You can find the complete list of exhibitors of ART COLOGNE 2025 [here](#).

You can find additional information on ART COLOGNE 2025 [here](#).

Note for editorial offices:

ART COLOGNE photos are available in our image database on the Internet at <https://www.artcologne.com/press/image-database/> in the "Press" section.

Press information is available at: <https://www.artcologne.com/press/press-releases-of-art-cologne/>.

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