



France, Paris, October 24th 2011

Press release

Mircea CANTOR, Winner of the 2011 Marcel Duchamp Prize

Annually awarded by the ADIAF in the aim of raising the international profile of the French art scene, the Marcel Duchamp Prize for 2011 goes to Mircea CANTOR, an artist born in Rumania in 1977. Lives and works in Paris, France.

The announcement was made on Saturday, the 22nd of October in Paris at the Grand Palais by **Gilles FUCHS**, President of the Association for the International Diffusion of French Art (ADIAF) and **Alfred PACQUEMENT**, Director of the National Museum of Modern Art, Centre Pompidou and President of the jury. *"After having considered the quality of the works shown, the jury's choice went to Mircea Cantor, announced Alfred Pacquement. The dense and protean work of this artist born in Rumania 34 years ago deals with phenomena from contemporary society for which he proposes symbolic representations. These effective allegories are as if suspended between the real and the imaginary."*



Mircea Cantor, special project for the Marcel Duchamp Prize, FIAC, Grand Palais, Paris 2011

Fishing flies: Sculpture/Installation made of golden fishhooks fixed onto airplanes made from beer cans, nylon line, fishnets and bamboo.

Fishing Flies Collection: Set of lures made of golden fishhooks fixed onto airplanes made from beer cans in a wooden box under glass

Vertical attempt: One second film in loop, colour and sound.

Photo Jennifer Westjohn

Four artists working in the field of visual and plastic arts were selected for the

11th edition of the Marcel Duchamp: Damien CABANES (born in Paris in 1959), Mircea CANTOR (born in Rumania in 1977), Guillaume LEBLON (born in Lille in 1971) and Samuel ROUSSEAU (born in Marseille in 1971). **Mircea CANTOR is the successor to Cyprien GAILLARD**, winner in 2010. He is to be invited by the Centre Pompidou for a three month solo show in the 315 space during the autumn of 2012. The ADIAF will give him a financial endowment of 35 000 Euros and will participate in the production of the exhibition. The artist is represented by the galleries Yvon Lambert, Paris, Dvir Gallery, Tel Aviv and Magazzino, Rome.



Mircea Cantor congratulated Alfred Pacquement and Gilles Fuchs



Announcement at the Grand Palais, October 22nd

A huge public of collectors and people from the art world were gathered together on this occasion in the Grand Palais during the 38th edition of the FIAC.

International jury for 2011: Carolyn CHRISTOV BARKARGIEV (United States, Italy), Curator and Critic, Artistic Director of the Kassel Documenta 13 (2012); Rosa DE LA CRUZ (United States), Collector; Gilles FUCHS (France), President of the ADIAF, Collector; Zoe GRAY (Netherlands), Curator of the Witte de With in Rotterdam; Jacqueline MATISSE-MONNIER (France, United States), Artist; Alfred PACQUEMENT (France), Director of the National Museum of Modern Art, Centre Pompidou and President of the jury and Olympio DA VEIGA PEREIRA (Brazil), Collector.

Reporters for 2011: Olivier KAEPPELIN, Director of the Maeght Foundation (for Damien Cabanes); François QUINTIN, Director of the Galeries Lafayette Group Foundation (for Mircea Cantor); Thomas BOUTOUX, Exhibition Curator and Author, Co-director of Castillo/Corrales, Paris (for Guillaume Leblon) and Françoise PARFAIT, Critic and Academic (for Samuel Rousseau).

The Marcel Duchamp Prize

Designed to promote the French art scene on an international scale, the Marcel Duchamp Prize was created in 2000 by the ADIAF, an association that today groups together 300 contemporary art collectors. Its ambition is to honour a French artist or artist residing in France and working in the field of the visual and plastic arts: installation, video, painting, photography, sculpture ... In keeping with the essential artist after whom it is named, this prize wishes to bring together the

most innovative artists of their generation on the French scene. Organized in partnership with the Centre Pompidou and the FIAC, it has honoured some 50 artists –winners and nominees - since its creation, thereby offering a very wide overview of contemporary art in France.

***The Marcel Duchamp Prize benefits from the support of:
Lombard Odier, Sothys, Artcurial, DTAM, Fondation d'entreprise Hermès,
Inlex IP Expertise, Bovis Fine Art, Eeckman Art Insurance and from the
collaboration of Creativtv***

Previous winners of the Marcel Duchamp Prize

Thomas Hirschhorn (2000), **Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster** (2002), **Mathieu Mercier** (2003), **Carole Benzaken** (2004), **Claude Closky** (2005), **Philippe Mayaux** (2006), **Tatiana Trouvé** (2007), **Laurent Grasso** (2008), **Saâdane Afif** (2009) and **Cyprien Gaillard** (2010).

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