



September 2008
Press release

THE 2008 MARCEL DUCHAMP PRIZE AT THE FIAC

Michel BLAZY, born in 1966 in Monaco (France)

Stéphane CALAIS, born in 1967 in Arras (France)

Laurent GRASSO, born in 1972 in Mulhouse (France)

Didier MARCEL, born in 1961 in Besançon (France)

Exhibition of the nominated artists : 23rd to 26th October 2008

Place : Cour Carrée in the Louvre, stands E01/02/03/04

Announcement of the winner : saturday 25th October, 11 a.m.

Created in 2000 by the collectors of the ADIAF, Association for the International Diffusion of French Art, the Marcel Duchamp Prize is organized in partnership with the Centre Pompidou, French National Museum of Modern Art and with the FIAC. Its ambition is to contribute to the international reputation of the French art scene by promoting the reputation of an artist residing in France and working in the field of the plastic and visual arts: installation, video, painting, photography, sculpture...

International jury for 2008

Pierre DARIER, Collector, President of the Mamco (Switzerland)

Gilles FUCHS, President of the ADIAF (France)

Jacqueline MATISSE-MONNIER, Artist (France)

Alfred PACQUEMENT, Director of the French National Museum of Modern Art, Centre Pompidou (France)

Julia PEYTON-JONES, Director of the Serpentine Gallery (Great Britain)

Guy TOSSATO, Director of the Grenoble Museum (France)

Walter VANHAERENTS, Collector (Belgium)

Winners of the Marcel Duchamp Prize

Thomas Hirschhorn (2000-2001), Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster (2002), Mathieu Mercier (2003), Carole Benzaken (2004), Claude Closky (2005), Philippe Mayaux (2006), Tatiana Trouvé (2007)

The Marcel Duchamp Prize 2007 benefits from the support of:

Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch, Sanofi-Aventis

Artcurial, DTAM, Inlex IP Expertise



Association pour la Diffusion Internationale de l'Art français-www.adiaf.com

Contact presse : Caroline Crabbe – 33 6 10 19 36 31 – carolinecrabbe@adiaf.com

Artists nominated for the 2008 MARCEL DUCHAMP PRIZE

Michel Blazy

Born in 1966 in Monaco, lives and works in Paris

Reporter: Marc-Olivier Walher, Director of the Palais de Tokyo

Galerie Art:Concept, Paris

A sculptor of the most unusual materials, Michel Blazy evolves within art through his works made from feathers and foam. Fascinated by organic matter, perishable produce and dry foodstuffs, he crystallizes creations around themes recalling the human condition: death, rot and decay. Thus, Michel Blazy shows rotting tomatoes, testifying to man's ineluctable destiny but also to the beauty and the strangeness of nature living in a state of constant mutation. He likes to mix humour with art: sculptures made from flashy chick yellow soy noodles, poodles in shaving foam or an unusual sheet made from wallpaper and spaghetti.

Stéphane Calais

Born in 1967 in Arras, lives and works in Paris

Reporter: Jean de Loisy, Exhibition Commissioner, Art Critic

Galerie Jocelyn Wolff, Paris

Stéphane Calais is an atypical figure in the world of contemporary art. He vindicates a Jack-of-all-trades approach and many varied influences. Tales, legends and popular icons are revisited and mixed with a universe where abstraction coexists alongside figuration. "For a long time, the 'atypical' label that has been stuck on me, used to surprise me, says Stéphane Calais. I only envision pieces in an efficient manner in relation to my commitments. Naturally, drawing, my first tool, allows me to navigate between the different fields through which it passes: that is to say all of them. The questions which are then raised according to the mediums used (painting, mural drawings, collages of objects or images...) are classic questions. But it is within their connection, their proximity that the tensions, ellipses or short-cuts are called into play."



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Laurent Grasso

Born in 1972 in Mulhouse, lives and works in Paris
Reporter: Michel Gauthier, Art critic
Gallery: Chez Valentin, Paris

Whether he (re) activates the shapes more or less identifiable of our controlling society or diverts the cinematographic techniques and conventions that fashion our collective imagination, Laurent Grasso creates environments with a great narrative potential, mixing ancestral fears with scientific evidence and menacing contemporary mythologies. For Michel Gauthier, Grasso's poetic quality has for incentive the tension between two paranoia – etymologically: between two positions somewhere on the edge of truth – that threaten a world saturated with information. By mobilizing various means (film, light, sound, models, engraving, etc...), in less than ten years Grasso's work has known how to disturb the aesthetic awareness and certainties of the modern discourse.

Didier Marcel

Born in 1961 in Besançon, lives and works in Dijon.
Reporter: Xavier Douroux, Director of the Consortium of Dijon
Galerie Michel Rein, Paris

Didier Marcel's artistic approach, inaugurated during his 1980s exhibitions, focuses on the idea of opposition and contrast. Widening the practice of sculpture, he proposes a singular vision of space. The viewer no longer has to walk around a piece of sculpture, instead there is a whole work unfolding around him within the place of exhibition. By using daily objects that he re-dimensions, Didier Marcel upsets the order of things and their localization within the social space. He enables us to envision differently our relationship with landscape that has become an idealized reality as evoked by the architectural models or natural elements (birch wood logs, fabric trees) in the artist's work. Extract from texts by Creativtv.



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The ADIAF in brief – www.adiaf.com

The ADIAF – Association for the International Diffusion of French Art (1901 legislation) – is the most important group of private contemporary art collectors in France today. Created in 1994, the association mobilizes the energies of 250 members around ambitious objectives in the aim of supporting the French Art Scene, encouraging all new artistic forms and making a wider public aware of the vitality of contemporary creation. Thus in 2000, it launched the MARCEL DUCHAMP PRIZE, the first collectors' prize created in France to encourage the recognition of new talents and promote their careers worldwide.

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VISUALS ON REQUEST



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