



Paris, 25th October 2008
Press Release

Laurent Grasso, Winner of the Marcel Duchamp Prize for 2008

Awarded by the Association for the International Diffusion of French Art (ADIAF), the 2008 Marcel Duchamp Prize has been attributed to Laurent Grasso, an artist born in 1972, living and working in Paris.

The Marcel Duchamp Prize has been created by the ADIAF's collectors in the aim of promoting the French art scene worldwide. It honours the reputation of an artist residing in France and working in the field of the plastic and visual arts. Launched in 2000, this prize is organized in partnership with the Pompidou Centre and the FIAC where an exhibition of the four nominated artists was held. Nominated artists: Michel Blazy, Stéphane Calais, Laurent Grasso and Didier Marcel.

The jury carefully considered the works of the four pre-selected artists and was deeply appreciative of their respective qualities and originality of approach. After some intense debate, it was decided to award the 2008 Marcel Duchamp Prize to Laurent Grasso. The images and installations of this artist, born in Mulhouse in 1972, show an alarming strangeness jeopardizing the control of the senses. Linking himself to a scientific imaginary world, he likes to let a certain ambiguity hover between the visual and the real, by servicing his approach with a series of technologies. And while deliberately making reference to film, architecture and literature, as well as to scientific or military experiments, he constructs a disquieting universe that is remarkably well-mastered within his scenographies.

The announcement of the winner was made at the Paris International Art Fair (FIAC) in the Cour Carrée of the Louvre on Saturday, the 25th of October 2008. Following in the footsteps of Thomas Hirschhorn (2000-2001), Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster (2002), Mathieu Mercier (2003), Carole Benzaken (2004), Claude Closky (2005), Philippe Mayaux (2006), and Tatiana Trouvé (2007), Laurent Grasso is invited to create an original work at the Pompidou Centre which will be shown during the summer of 2009 in the 315 space. The ADIAF will award the winner with a financial endowment of 35 000 euros.

The jury for the 2008 Marcel Duchamp Prize: Pierre Darier, Collector, President of the Mamco (Switzerland); Gilles Fuchs, President of the Adiaf (France); Jacqueline Matisse-Monnier, Artist (France, United States); Alfred Pacquement, Director of the National Museum of Modern Art (France), Julia Peyton-Jones, Director of the Serpentine Gallery (London, England); Guy Tosatto, Director of the Museum of Grenoble (France); Walter Vanharents, Collector (Belgium).

The Marcel Duchamp benefits from the support of the companies: Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch, Sanofi-Aventis, Artcurial, DTAM, Inlex IP Expertise as well as the Fondation Hermès.

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