

Press release – please publish!

25th European Media Art Festival, 18 April – 22 April 2012 Exhibition: 18 April – 28 May 2012

“And the winner is....”

The award ceremony of the 25th European Media Art Festival took place at the “Lagerhalle” Osnabrück on Sunday evening. About 170 films participated in the competition for the offered awards.

The Verband der Deutschen Filmkritik (VDFK) awarded the *prize for the best German experimental film*, along with 1000 euros, to Constanze Fischbeck and Daniel Kötter for their film “State Theatre #2 Tehran” (D 2011, 24:00 Min). The jury’s comment:

“Two-sided vision animates the film. Two cameras explore the rooms of a grand theatre, disused since 1979 but once full of life, in a calm, soberly conceived structure. With great unambiguity, due in part to the consistent bright illumination, the clarity of clear-cut lines is achieved. The special qualities of the film can be found in this harshness, coherence and beauty.

Additional scenes from the surveillance cameras installed there and with puppeteers and a female dancer enable the historical and political explosive nature of this location in Tehran to be eventually approached.”

The “Verband der deutschen Filmkritik e.V.” appointed Günter Agde, Bodo Schönfelder and Hans-Jürgen Tast to the jury.

An international jury awarded not only the *EMAF Award* and the *Newcomer Award* but also the *Dialogpreis* of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This jury was made up of Maria Pallier, Daniel Cockburn and Abdo Nawar.

The *EMAF Award*, given to trend-setting works of Media Art, was awarded to Hayoun Kwon and her film “Manque of Preuves (Lack of Evidence)” (F 2011, 9:20 Min).

In their comment, the jury wrote:

“The EMAF-award goes to Hayoun Kwon for her transmedial account of intercultural incomprehension. “Manque de Preuves” (Lack of Evidence) is a fairytale, a storytelling, an investigation, and an autopsy of a cultural dilemma, using a diverse range of media to illustrate the differences between cultures and realities.”

This year, the *Newcomer Award*, with 1500 euro prize money, was awarded to Ed Atkins and his work “Death Mask III” (GB 2011, 34:46 Min).

The jury described his work as “a videowork which uses sensitive and striking sound-image combinations to evoke a narrative without defining it, to allude to emotions and trauma without making them tangible. For its technical prowess, musical sensibility, and visceral impact, we are pleased to give the award to Death Mask III by Ed Atkins.”

The *Dialogpreis*, awarded by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote intercultural exchange, went to “Excursions in the Dark” by Kaya Behkalam. The jury awarded the filmmaker “for bringing to us a poetic portrait of the streets and people in post-revolutionary Cairo. Excursions in the Dark shows empty spaces, charged with fear of a chaotic future, at the same time making us aware of the universality of human dreams.”

EMAF congratulates all award winners and thanks the juries for their work.

European Media Art Festival

The EMAF in Osnabrück is one of the most important forums of international Media Art, and is an open laboratory for creative and artistic experiments that help shape media and the aesthetics of their content. As a lively meeting place for artists, curators, lenders, gallery owners and a specialist audience, it has been instrumental in forming the themes and aesthetics of Media Art.

// CONCEPT AND FESTIVAL MANAGEMENT

Hermann Nöring, Alfred Rotert, Ralf Sausmikat.

// SPONSORS

nordmedia - Die Mediengesellschaft Niedersachsen/Bremen mbH
City of Osnabrück
German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
German Federal Foreign Office
Kulturstiftung des Bundes
Kulturstiftung der Länder
Foundation of Lower Saxony
Europa fördert Niedersachsen
European Regional Development Fund
EU/Culture Programme
150 Years of Friendship Germany - Japan
University of Osnabrück
Mondriaan Foundation
Canadian Embassy
Grenswerte, funded by Euregio
Cybob Communications

// MEDIA PARTNERS

arte
le monde diplomatique

// CULTURAL PARTNERS

NDR Kultur

// MORE INFORMATION

Kerstin Kollmeyer
Presse(at)emaf.de

European Media Art Festival
Lohstr. 45a
D-49074 Osnabrück
Tel. +49 (0)541/216 58
Fax +49 (0)541/ 28327