

belvedere

BELVEDERE  
ART  
AWARD  
2024

VENDOME

Vienna, May 13, 2024

## BELVEDERE ART AWARD 2024

### Rabbya Naseer granted the Belvedere Art Award

The biennial award for contemporary art, endowed with 20,000 euros, was presented for the second time on Monday, May 13, 2024, by Vendome Projects and Belvedere.

#### JURY STATEMENT:

*The selection of Rabbya Naseer was based on her impressive artistic quality and her special methodology. Rabbya Naseer's work opens up an intimate space that she creates together with her audience and that addresses the economy of time. In her process-based practice, she questions the modes and models of representation and visibility in the contemporary art system as well as in society at large. Rabbya Naseer addresses invisibility as a way of exploring temporary structures, subversive moments and spaces of freedom. She reflects on immediate contexts and situations, often as a dialog partner, a storyteller, setting up situations that generate and leave traces with a particular form of poetry. The artist works on different levels, taking into account the respective context and reacting to it. In doing so, she poses urgent and new questions that are of particular relevance to the jury in a time of rapid and complex technological and social change. The jury is pleased to unanimously award this prize to Rabbya Naseer.*

This year's nominated jury, consisting of Anette Baldauf (Sociologist, Professor of Methodology and Epistemology, and Co-Head of the artistic research program PhD in Practice at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts), Robert Gabris (Artist and recipient of the Belvedere Art Award 2022, Vienna), Jen Kratochvil (Curator and Educator, Vienna and Prague), Hana Ostan Ožbolt (Curator and Author, Vienna and Ljubljana), Nina Tabassomi (Director of Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol in Innsbruck), nominated a total of

ten artists: Rawan Almkhtar, Gleb Amankulov, Abdul Sharif Oluwafemi Baruwa, Rehema Chachage, Rabbya Naseer, Naomi Rincón-Gallardo, Miriam Stoney, Esther Strauß, Sophie Thun, and Sophie Utikal. The award winner was determined by an international selection jury on May 13, 2024. This year's selection jury included Andrea Bellini (Director of the Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève and Curator of the Swiss Pavilion at the 60th Biennale di Venezia), Fatima Hellberg (Director of the Bonner Kunstverein and designated General Director of mumok, Vienna), Andreja Hribernik (Director of Kunsthaus Graz), Stella Rollig (General Director of Belvedere, Vienna), and Felicitas Thun-Hohenstein (Art Historian, Curator, and Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Initiator of the Belvedere Art Award).

The festive award ceremony took place in the evening of May 13th at the Belvedere 21. After a performance by musician Steffanie Ergen, the nominated artists were introduced, and the award recipient was announced. Following a congratulatory speech also delineating the jury's decision, around 100 invited guests from the arts and culture scene attended the reception with music by DJ JOIE DE F:LLE.

In addition to the 20,000 Euro prize money, Rabbya Naseer has been granted a solo exhibition with an accompanying publication. The solo presentation will take place from March to June 2025 at the Belvedere 21.

## **SHORT BIOGRAPHY RABBYA NASEER**

Born in 1984 in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, lives and works in Vienna and Lahore. From 2002 to 2006, she studied at the National College of Arts in Lahore, and from 2008 to 2010, she completed her master's degree in art history, theory, and criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago as a recipient of the Fulbright scholarship. Naseer is known for her interdisciplinary and collaborative practice, predominantly with Hurmat ul Ain (since 2007), and teaches at renowned institutions, including NCA and BNU in Lahore (since 2010), Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia (2015 & 2017), and the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, where she is currently enrolled in the PhD-in-Practice doctoral program. Her works have been exhibited internationally, including in the USA, UK, Dubai, and Australia.

## **BELVEDERE ART AWARD**

The Belvedere Art Award was launched in 2022 as a collaborative effort between Vendome Projects and the Belvedere. This biennial art award seeks to reflect forward-looking dynamics in society and contemporary art. Advancing an inclusive, queer-feminist, diversity-oriented approach, the initiative is informed by current discourses and an awareness of the manifold exclusionary practices demonstrated by museums and exhibitions, not least of which is how and to whom awards are allocated. In a two-stage selection process, a nomination and a selection jury with local and international experts determine an artistic position as the prize winner. Five jurors each nominate two emerging artists with a connection to Austria. Age, gender, and nationality explicitly do not play a role in the selection process. The award is endowed with 20,000 euros in prize money. In addition to the prize money, the award winner receives a solo exhibition with an accompanying publication at Belvedere 21.

<https://www.belvedere.at/en/belvedere-art-award>

## VENDOME PROJECTS

Vendomeprojects.art is an initiative of the Vendome Management GmbH group and is dedicated to the promotion of contemporary art, artists, institutions, and projects with an inclusive, queer-feminist orientation that favors diversity and looks toward the future. It reflects current dynamics in society and contemporary art and participates in the ensuing discourse. Based in Vienna, vendomeprojects.art is progressively growing its own art collection with a focus on queer-feminist perspectives in art that will be presented to the public in various formats. Michael Koschier and Felicitas Thun-Hohenstein are the founders of vendomeprojects.art. Their shared passion for art and topical societal discourse has led them to concretize their commitment and share it with the public.

[www.vendomeprojects.art](http://www.vendomeprojects.art)

## SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

### NOMINATED ARTISTS 2024

#### RAWAN ALMUKHTAR

Born in 1991 in Baghdad, Iraq. Studied painting at the University of Baghdad Institute of Fine Arts (2011–15) and drawing at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts (since 2018). In 2022, his paintings were exhibited at the Künstlerhaus (*Return on Art*), as part of the 2022 Wienwoche Festival, as well as at mumok, where his short film *Mukhtar* was also shown. Other exhibitions include *Deframing Postmigration* at the Atelier Mukhtar (2021), *Raumschiff Linz* (2020), and the Open Days at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts (2019, 2020). In 2022, his queer-feminist works were shown at the WUK Foyer in Vienna, and at Dschungel Wien. Additional political works and performances were presented in 2020 at Spektakel, Vienna; Brunnenpassage, Vienna, as well as in public spaces, such as in front of UNO-City in Vienna, 2019. In 2015, Almkhtar won second prize at the Ishtar Award of the Iraqi Fine Arts Association (IFAA). In 2021, he received the kultūr gemma! work grant from the City of Vienna.

#### GLEB AMANKULOV

Born in 1988 in Minsk, lives and works in Vienna. In 2007, he graduated from the College of Arts and Design in Minsk and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Printmaking from the Belarusian State Academy of Arts in 2013. He studied sculpture and spatial strategies at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts under Monica Bonvicini and Iman Issa, earning his master's degree in 2022. Amankulov has participated in numerous exhibitions, including *On the New* (2023) at the Belvedere 21 and *Acting in the Now* (2022) at the Leopold Museum. Amankulov's works are currently on display as part of *Fragment I* at the Commune Gallery in Vienna. In 2023, he presented a solo show titled *In the Salt Storage* at Eges42 in Linz. Additionally, in 2022, his works were the subject of another solo exhibition titled *Stalagmite Eyes* at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts. He has received several awards for his artistic achievements, including the 2022 Academy Prize (Vienna Academy of Fine Arts) and the 2022 Kunsthalle Prize.

#### ABDUL SHARIF OLUWAFEMI BARUWA

Born in 1975 in London, lives and works in Vienna. From 1999 to 2003, he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna with Gunter Damisch. In the summer of 2023, he participated with site-specific works in *Der Semmering als Bühne der Gegenwart*, a continuation of the project *Land, Besitz und Commons* (Land, Ownership, and Commons) by Kunst im öffentlichen Raum Niederösterreich. The project was curated by Hedwig Saxenhuber in 2021 in the public space of the Semmering, a venue that also featured Baruwa's works. His most recent exhibition projects include *Jugendzimmer* as part of EXILE in Vienna (2022) and *A Temple most August* in Toronto (2021). Baruwa was an artist in residence at Fogo Island Arts in 2019. In 2023, Bildrecht awarded Baruwa and EXILE with the viennacontemporary Bildrecht SOLO Award 2023.

## REHEMA CHACHAGE

Born in 1987 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, lives and works in Vienna. She completed a bachelor's degree in fine art at the University of Cape Town and earned an MA in Contemporary Art Theory at Goldsmiths, University of London in 2018. She is currently pursuing a PhD as part of the PhD-in-Practice doctoral program at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts. Chachage's artistic practice is research-based and includes multimedia installations, performances, and curatorial projects. Her works have been exhibited internationally, including in Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, and Vienna. Chachage recently presented her work in a solo exhibition at Kunstraum Niederoesterreich and received the H13 Prize for Performance in 2023.

## NAOMI RINCÓN-GALLARDO

Born in 1979, lives and works between Oaxaca and Mexico City. In 2020, she completed the PhD-in-Practice doctoral program at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, having previously earned a master's degree from Goldsmiths, University of London, and a bachelor's degree in fine arts from "La Esmeralda" in Mexico City. Her works have been presented in several solo exhibitions, most recently *Tzitzimime Trilogy* (2023) at La Casa Encendida in Madrid, *A Trilogy of Caves* (2020) at MACO in Oaxaca, and *May Your Thunder Break the Sky* (2019) at Kunstraum Innsbruck. Additionally, Rincón-Gallardo represented the Mexican Pavilion at the Biennale Arte 2022 in Venice and participated in the 34th São Paulo Biennial in 2021.

## MIRIAM STONEY

Born in 1994 in Scunthorpe, UK, lives and works in Vienna. She completed her master's degree in architectural history at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, and her bachelor's degree in art history at the University of Oxford. Under the title *Eckdaten*, Stoney is currently presenting her work at the Brunette Coleman Gallery in London. In recent years, she has participated in exhibitions such as *On the New* (2023) at the Belvedere 21 in Vienna and the Kyiv Biennale (2023). Stoney has received several awards, including the BMKÖS Startstipendium for Fine Arts, and was nominated for the Vordemberge-Gildewart Award in 2022. She is also involved in educational activities through workshops and lectures that promote exchange and education in art.

## ESTHER STRAUß

Born in 1986 in Zams, Austria, lives and works in Vienna, Linz, and London. From 2005 to 2011, she completed her education in Performance and Cultural Studies at the art universities in Linz and Bristol. Strauß has presented performances, exhibitions, and labs at venues such as the Sigmund Freud Museum in London, Perdu Amsterdam, Fabbrica del Vapore Milan, as well as OK Linz and Künstlerhaus Wien. For her work, she has been awarded the Paul Flora Prize from the State of Tyrol (2022) and the State Scholarship for Visual Arts from BMKÖS (2021). Since 2015, she has also been a lecturer in Language Arts at the University of Art Linz.

## SOPHIE THUN

Born in 1985 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Studied art and photography at the Academy of Fine Arts Krakow (2004–10) and the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna (2010–17). Solo exhibitions include: Kunstverein Hildesheim (2022); Kunststiftung DZ BANK, Art Foyer, Frankfurt am Main (2021); Kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga (2021); Secession, Vienna (2020); Camera Austria, Graz (2019); Kunstraum München (2018). Her works have been shown in group exhibitions at venues such as the Kunsthalle Bratislava, Smart Museum of Art in Chicago, MUSEO MACRO in Rome, the Kunstforum Wien, and the Austrian Cultural Forum in Berlin. Thun has been awarded the following prizes: Outstanding Artist Award from the Federal Ministry for the Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sports in Vienna (2021); DZ BANK Art Scholarship – Photography (2019); Startstipendium from the Federal Ministry for the Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sports in Vienna (2018).

## SOPHIE UTIKAL

Born in 1987 in Tallahassee, USA, lives and works in Vienna and Berlin. Utikal studied statistics and American cultural history, comparative literature, and philosophy at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich from 2006 to 2011, and contextual painting at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts from 2014 to 2019. In addition to her academic studies, she completed training as a Grinberg bodyworker in Spain. Utikal's work has been featured in numerous exhibitions, including solo exhibitions like *In Transitions* (2024) at the Ebensperger Galerie Berlin, *She had Already Learned to Breathe Underwater* (2023) at the Kunstraum Innsbruck, and *There is No Separation* (2022) at the Neuer Wiener Kunstverein. From May to October 2024, Utikal will show works as part of Tangente St. Pölten.

Additional information and press images are available for download at [www.belvedere.at/en/press](http://www.belvedere.at/en/press).

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