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Isaac Julien combines dance, photography, music, theatre and painting

Goslar's Kaiserring 2022 goes to the artist and film producer

Goslar. The Kaiserring 2022 goes to Isaac Julien. He is an artist, film producer and university lecturer. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, Goslar's mayor Urte Schwerdtner was not able to announce the name of the winner at Goslar's traditional New Year's reception, as is the convention. Instead, the town is today publishing a short video online at www.goslar.de.

"It is a great honour to receive the prestigious Goslarer Kaiserring prize for 2022," says Isaac Julien. "This award has a long and impressive history and many of the previous recipients have been friends and colleagues for many years. It is with great pleasure that I join such a distinguished company. Receiving this award is also an inspiration to continue with the work that I have been doing for four decades. My relationship with Germany where I taught for a long time and where I have many friends has always been particularly strong and this award comes at the important time when the recognition of international values in contemporary arts is of essential significance."

In their justification, the Kaiserring judges said the following about Isaac Julien: *"He tears down barriers between different artistic disciplines, by drawing from film, dance, photography, music, theatre, painting and sculpture and by combining them into a highly sensual visual narrative. Julien's work addresses the important social and human subjects of our time – racism, migration, diversity, queerness, homophobia and chauvinism – and encourages others to rethink and explore social responsibility anew."* They went on to say Isaac Julien combines pointed political force of expression with an aesthetic of visual seduction. *"In his films and video installations, which have a pictorial power, he uses history painting as pictorial elements, museums and venues and charges the filmic sphere as a kind of 'tableau vivant'". He has thereby created a poetic and unique visual language."*

Isaac Julien will accept the Kaiserring of the town of Goslar, one of the most acclaimed contemporary art prizes, in person in Goslar's Kaiserpfalz. The ceremonious event is scheduled for 8 October.

Isaac Julien

Isaac Julien, born in London in 1960, is an international filmmaker, who over the course of his career has produced works for cinema, television as well as art museums and galleries. He studied painting and fine art film at the Saint Martin's School of Art and in the 1980s he was a co-founder of the 'Sankofa Film and Video Collective', which focused on developing an

* A tableau vivant depicts a scene from the fields of painting and sculpture depicted by actors. Today the term is also used to describe a 'living picture'.

independent black film culture. He, together with a number of black and Asian filmmakers, is considered a trailblazer of international black cinema.

He achieved his international breakthrough with his film 'Looking for Langston', a poetic confrontation with the writings of Langston Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance, in 1989. The film won several awards. His feature film debut 'Young Soul Rebels' was a prize winner at the Cannes Film Festival in 1991.

Since the mid-1990s Isaac Julien has been showing his museal works as film installations on several screens. He is considered a pioneer of this presentational style. At the same time he always also produces a version of his work for cinema. During that same time period Julien continued to produce poetic documentary films, such as the biopic about the British film director and artist Derek Jarman, called 'Derek' (2008) – filmed with the actress and Oscar winner Tilda Swinton about Jarman's life, art and films.

Among Isaac Julien's most recent works are 'Lessons of the Hour: Frederick Douglass' (2019) and 'Lina Bo Bardi: A Marvellous Entanglement' (2020). 'Lessons of the Hour' tells the story of Frederick Douglass, a former slave, who fought for the abolition of slavery and who became one of the most-photographed men of the 19th century. Lina Bo Bardi is a renowned Brazilian modernist architect, who is portrayed by Oscar-nominated actress Fernanda Montenegro.

Isaac Julien mainly lives and works in London and is a lecturer at the UC Santa Cruz. He has been a member of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) for more than 20 years. In 2017 the British Queen Elizabeth II honoured him for services to the arts and in 2018 he became a Royal Academician.

Kaiserring Goslar

Goslar's Kaiserring is one of the world's most acclaimed contemporary art prizes. It has been awarded since 1975. The first recipients were Henry Moore, Max Ernst and Alexander Calder. They were followed by pioneers of contemporary art such as Joseph Beuys, Gerhard Richter, Nam June Paik, Christo, Cindy Sherman and Jenny Holzer. Before Isaac Julien, recent recipients have included Bridget Riley, David Lynch, Olafur Eliasson, Wolfgang Tillmans, Hans Haacke and most recently Adrian Piper.

Kaiserring Judges

The judges on the Kaiserring panel comprise experts and individuals from Goslar. At the time of the selection the expert judges were:

- Jury Chair Prof. Wulf Herzogenrath, Director of the Visual Arts at the Akademie der Künste Berlin
- Prof. Marion Ackermann, Director General of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden
- Dr Penelope Curtis, Guest Professor at the National Gallery of Art, Washington
- Fabrice Hergott, Director of the Musée d'art modern de la Ville de Paris
- Udo Kittelmann, Artistic Director Museum Frieder Burda
- Dr Friedemann Malsch, Director of the Liechtenstein National Gallery, Vaduz

- Prof. Susanne Pfeffer, Director of the MMK, Museum für modern Kunst in Frankfurt am Main

The Goslar judges were:

- Dr Oliver Junk, erstwhile Mayor of Goslar
 - Marleen Mützlaff, Head of Culture, Goslar
 - Martin Mahnkopf, Chair of the Board for World Heritage, Town History and Culture for Goslar
 - Dr Frank Schober, erstwhile Vice Chair of the Board for World Heritage, Town History and Culture for Goslar
 - Dr Bettina Ruhrberg, Director of the Mönchehaus Museum Goslar
 - Florian Haacke, Chair of the Verein zur Förderung moderner Kunst e.V. Goslar
- Prof. Marion Ackermann will take the place of Prof. Wulf Herzogenrath and will hold the role of jury chair in the future.

Contact:

For further information, go to the website of the Mönchehaus Museum (www.moenchehaus.de) and the town of Goslar (www.goslar.de). If you have any questions, you can contact the communications team of the town of Goslar at 05321 704-226. You can also obtain information from the Director of the Mönchehaus Museum, Dr Bettina Ruhrberg, at 05321-4948, ruhrberg@moenchehaus.de.

Fotos:



Isaac Julien. Foto: Thierry Bal



Isaac Julien

Installation view, *Lina Bo Bardi – A Marvellous Entanglement*

Victoria Miro, 16 Wharf Road, London N1 7RW

7 June–27 July 2019

© Isaac Julien

Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro

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Isaac Julien

Ten Thousand Waves, 2010

9 screen installation, 35mm film transferred to High Definition, 9.2 surround sound, 49' 41"

Installation view, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2013

Courtesy of the artist, Metro Pictures Gallery, New York and Victoria Miro Gallery, London

Photographer: Jonathan Muzikar



Isaac Julien

Installation view, *Lessons of the Hour*

McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco

14 October 2020–13 March 2021

Courtesy of McEvoy Arts and Isaac Julien. Photography by Henrik Kam.

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