MERU ART*SCIENCE AWARD, 2nd Edition
RENAUD JEREZ: LOLITA LEMPICKA

GAMeC, 3 October – 30 November 2014

Saturday 11 October 2014, 11 a.m.
Awards Ceremony and conversation with the artist Renaud Jerez
Spazio ParolaImmagine

From 3 October to 30 November 2014 GAMeC - Galleria d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Bergamo is pleased to present LOLITA LEMPICKA by Renaud Jerez, the winning project of the second MERU ART*SCIENCE AWARD, promoted in collaboration with the Fondazione MERU/Medolago-Ruggeri for biomedical research and the Associazione BergamoScienza to reward and support the work of an artist and aimed at underscoring the bond between art and science.

For the second edition the jury, composed of Alessandro Medolago – President of Fondazione MERU; Alessandro Bettonagli – Associazione BergamoScienza and Giacinto Di Pietrantonio – Director of GAMeC, examined and appreciated all the projects presented by the candidates because of the quality of their artistic research, but chose the project by Renaud Jerez – artist proposed by Michele D’Aurizio – for its particular relevance with the theme of the award, the use of an innovative language, and the narrative and visionary experimentation proposed by the artist, investigating the relationship between the biological body and urban fabric.

Named after the dream-like French fashion designer, this project specifically produced for the Meru Art*Science Award is a fifteen-minute movie. Made using found footage and iPhone, VHS and HD shots edited with computer-generated images and drawn animations, Lolita Lempicka is centred on one narrator, a young rapper, in the city of Berlin. A complex and fascinating character, Ali totally embodies his generation. His inner struggles are reflected by the urban landscape, depicted as the internal perspective of a body.

Cheap production, phone cameras and high-end post-production shape the project, which lives and flows like a diary. No one can precisely relate to what’s going on in the pictures except the narrator’s rapping African accent. Lolita Lempicka disrupts its own narration by atomizing language, music and image: a flaw in the video recording, noisy pictures and faded colours. What emerge are themes such as commercial design, the music and fashion industries, disease, mutation, technology and filth, in an urban and desperate landscape. This is an elsewhere between our highly defined desires, branded aesthetics, and the experience of desolation and sadness.
The project is part of the programming of the 12th BergamoScienza, one of the most important international science festivals, scheduled this year from 3 to 19 October.

Saturday 11 October 2014, at 11 a.m., GAMeC’s Spazio ParolaImmagine will host the Awards ceremony, followed by a talk with the artist Renaud Jerez.
The event is part of the 10th Giornata del Contemporaneo (The Day of Contemporary Art) promoted by AMACI.

The work will enter GAMeC’s Permanent Collection and the archives of the Fondazione MERU and the Associazione BergamoScienza.

Biographical notes

Renaud Jerez was born in France in 1982 and lives in Berlin.

THE AWARD

The MERU ART*SCIENCE AWARD – born in 2013 from the collaboration of GAMeC – Galleria d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Bergamo, the Fondazione MERU and the Associazione BergamoScienza – represents important acknowledgement aimed at underscoring the ties between art and science, awarding and supporting the work of an artist invited to present a project that probes the relationship between these two areas.

According to the regulations, participation is strictly by invitation: for each edition, a selected group of artists – proposed by professionals in the field of contemporary art – must present a work that has never been shown before, conceived based on an assigned budget and specific requirements.

The competing works must be linked with the mission of the Fondazione MERU – Fondazione Medolago-Ruggeri for biomedical research, a non-profit organization promoting scientific and biomedical research in the field of vascular biology. The foundation, based in Bergamo, promotes research projects with a strong social focus and closely connected with areas such as the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases that strike us and cause physical, mental and emotional stress.

Invernomuto were the winners of the first edition of MERU ART*SCIENCE AWARD.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SECOND EDITION

Along with Renaud Jerez, proposed by Michele D’Aurizio - Managing Editor of Flash Art, the competitors for the second MERU ART*SCIENCE AWARD were:

Luca Bolognesi, proposed by Silvia Lucchesi – Director of Lo Schermo dell’Arte Film Festival, Florence
Bea McMahon, proposed by Philippe-Alain Michaud - Film Curator at Musée National d’Art Moderne-Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
Kaspar Müller, proposed by Beatrix Ruf – Director of Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
Pietro Mele, proposed by Lorenzo Giusti – Director of Man, Nuoro
Flatform, proposed by Mario Gorni – Founder of Careof, Milano

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