



# Princess Margriet Award for Culture

## Background and Guidelines 2016

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# ECF PRINCESS MARGRIET AWARD FOR CULTURE

An annual award for cultural change-makers in Europe.

The European Cultural Foundation's (ECF) Princess Margriet Award for Culture is presented annually to two outstanding European cultural practitioners. From cultural facilitators to artistic voices—individual or collective—the Award seeks to highlight practices prompting the vision and embodiment of Europe as a progressive, translocal project inclusive of its diverse cultural, social and political constituents. Through their creative expression, the Award Laureates provide vital examples of how culture both shapes and is shaped by the actions of people and therefore plays an invaluable (though often undervalued) role in both building and changing Europe's social imaginary\*. Laureates are active in all disciplines of the contemporary arts, cultural activism, critical thinking, architecture, digital and media culture, within which they act as cultural change-makers.

Each year the Award honours two Laureates with € 25.000 each. The cultural work of the Laureates is brought into focus at the Award Ceremony held each spring in Europe's capital Brussels, as well as on different occasions throughout the year in the form of debates, publications, exhibitions and screenings across Europe. The ceremony and related public activities set the stage for conversations that aim at catalysing new debates and exchange between the cultural, social and the political. HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands and ECF President, HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands are present at the highly anticipated Award Ceremony. Guests from local and international cultural communities, policy makers and politicians, as well as business stakeholders from Europe and neighbouring regions gather together in order to both learn about and advocate the critical importance of culture in shaping ways of living together in Europe today.

*\*Europe's social imaginary is understood here as the way people imagine shared ways of living together in Europe and creating an understanding of collective life based on solidarity and equality.*

# 2016 SELECTION PROCEDURE

Each year ECF invites a changing group of around 30 nominators across wider Europe. The nominators are experts in different regions, disciplines and areas of cultural practice, and include professionals from within and beyond ECF's broader network.

**Each nominator is invited to make one proposal. The deadline for receiving nominations is 15 June 2015.** The long list is presented to the international Jury for shortlisting. ECF staff assembles portfolios of the shortlisted nominees in consultation with the nominators. These portfolios are sent to the Jury in advance of the Jury meeting in October 2015.

Once the selection is made by the Jury and endorsed by the ECF Supervisory Board, the Laureates are informed by the ECF Director and asked if they accept the Award. There are no restrictions regarding the use of the Award money, yet the Laureates are requested to attend and contribute to shaping the Award Ceremony, to ensure a presentation that best reflects their work.

The nominators are not permitted to nominate themselves or an organisation they are affiliated with. ECF maintains a policy of strict confidentiality. During the selection process the nominator's name is not disclosed in connection with the nominees. The names of the nominees are never published and the ECF does not inform a nominee about his/her or their nomination. After the Jury selection, the identity of the Laureates remains confidential until the inaugural press announcement is made in late November. ECF asks that the nominators and Laureates comply with this policy of confidentiality.

*The nominators for the 2016 ECF Princess Margriet Award for Culture are:*

Victoria **Anderica Caffarena**, Legal researcher and campaigner, Access info Europe, Madrid  
Inke **Arns**, Curator and artistic director, Hartware MedienKunstVerein, Dortmund  
Franco "Bifo" **Berardi**, Philosopher and media activist, Bologna  
Barbara **Borčić**, Art historian and director, SCCA, Ljubljana  
Lilet **Breddels**, Director, Archis, Rotterdam  
Ekaterina **Degot**, Curator and Artistic Director, Theatre of the World, Cologne/Moscow  
Annemieke **Keurentjes**, Theatre and dance programmer, Holland festival, Amsterdam  
Anthony **Kwame Appiah**, Professor of Philosophy, Law Department of Philosophy NYU, New York  
Antonio **Lafuente**, founder and coordinator of the Commons Lab, Medialab Prado, Madrid  
Maria **Lind**, Director, Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm  
Geert **Lovink**, Director, Institute of Networked Cultures, Amsterdam  
Suhail **Malik**, Writer and co-director of MFA Goldsmiths, London  
Paolo **Naldini**, Director, Citta dell'arte, Biella  
Maria **Oshodi**, Artistic director and CEO, Extant, London  
Roman **Pawłowski**, Theatre critic, journalist and curator, Warsaw/Amsterdam  
Marta **Popivoda**, Film-maker, Berlin/Belgrade  
David van **Reybrouck**, Writer and cultural activist, Brussels  
Rimini **Protokoll** (Helgard Haug, Stefan Kaegi, Daniel Wetzel), theatre makers, Berlin  
Rasha **Salti**, Curator and writer, Beirut  
Ranabir **Samaddar**, Director Calcutta Research Group, Calcutta  
Arpad **Schilling**, Artistic director, Kretakor, Budapest  
Tereza **Stejskalová**, Curator, critic and editor, Prague  
Gerfried **Stocker**, Director, Ars Electronica, Graz  
Ovidiu **Țichindeleanu**, philosopher and social theorist, Chisinau  
Michael **Thoss**, Director, Allianz Stiftung, Berlin

# ELIGIBILITY AND CRITERIA

To be eligible, the nominee—individual or collective—must be **living and working in broader Europe** (this includes non-EU member states, please see list of eligible countries in the box on the right). The nominee's work has a significant impact locally, but also bears relevance to a wider European context.

Each year the Award Jury selects two Laureates. The Award is open to all cultural disciplines and practices. The primary criterion for nomination is the relation between the cultural and/or artistic excellence of the nominee's practice *and* its engagement and impact in the (European) social field. For the 2016 Award, ECF is seeking nominations of individual or collective artists and theorists from all disciplines of contemporary arts, architecture and digital and media culture.

## The nominee exhibits the following criteria:

- **Exceptional body of work:** the nominee's work is influential in and beyond the cultural field and shows the cultural skills of open-mindedness and powerful imagination: two intrinsic ingredients of progressive society.
- **Impact & future:** the nominee's work has had a significant impact and entails a future perspective (the nominator is asked to present how the nominees' work will unfold in the immediate and longer term).
- **Experimental:** the nominee's work transverses (traditional) cultural categories and disciplines, and engages with difference as a creative force (i.e., the nominee practices culture as a living system of values and not as a representation of a fixed identity).
- **Cross-cultural outreach and collaboration:** the nominee's artistic and/or intellectual sensibility enables transformative forms of collaboration between different cultures and communities across demographic, geographic, economic, political and social contexts.
- **Local urgency and European relevance:** the nominee's work addresses a trans-local or Europe-wide relevance through artistic, creative production or theoretical discourse; the nominee forges alternative perspectives with relevance to different publics across Europe.

## Eligible countries

- A** Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan
- B** Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria
- C** Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic
- D** Denmark
- E** Egypt, Estonia
- F** Finland, France
- G** Georgia, Germany, Greece
- H** Hungary
- I** Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy
- J** Jordan
- K** Kosovo
- L** Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg
- M** Macedonia (FYROM), Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco
- N** The Netherlands, Norway
- P** Palestinian Territories, Poland, Portugal
- R** Romania, Russia
- S** San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria
- T** Tunisia, Turkey
- U** Ukraine and the United Kingdom

# 2016 JURY

An international, interdisciplinary Jury, chaired by ECF Director Katherine Watson, gathers together in October 2015 to assess the nominations and select the two Laureates of the 2016 ECF Princess Margriet Award for Culture. The members of the 2016 Jury are:

**Andreas Broeckmann**, Curator, Leuphana Arts Program, Lüneburg/Berlin

**Bojana Cvejić**, Performance Theorist and Maker, Brussels/Belgrade

**Chris Dercon**, Director, Tate Modern, London

**Juan Freire**, Founding Partner, Teamlabs and mmodulUS, Madrid

**Saskia van Stein**, Artistic Director, Bureau Europa, Maastricht

# PREVIOUS LAUREATES

The ECF Princess Margriet Award for Culture has previously been awarded to:

## 2015

**Visual Culture Research Center (VCRC)**, for creating a truly common space of cultural production and debate in Kiev that adequately reflects social realities and keeps critical discourse alive. VCRC has formed a critical stand against the tendency towards narrow nationalism and is challenging entrenched norms of cultural reception and production. Since its founding in 2005, the **Athens Biennale** has questioned the concept of the biennale from within, remodelling the biennale as a space for grassroots action, pioneering a kind of 'curating from below'. Consistently experimental, the Athens Biennale underlines that culture shapes and is shaped by the actions of people rather than artworks as commodified goods.

## 2014

Cultural activist **Teodor Celakoski** was awarded for his pivotal role in shaping Croatia's independent cultural scene and praised his commitment to making real democratic processes possible; **Teatro Valle Occupato** in Rome was awarded in recognition of its collective energy in making culture as a space for people to join in, where culture becomes a shared process that produces new values and forms of social life.

## 2013

Visual artists **Lia & Dan Perjovschi** from Sibiu were honoured for the active role that their art has played in Romanian culture and community building since the late 1980s, as well as its wider European relevance and global impact; Berlin-based conductor **Yoel Gamzou** was chosen for his exceptional talent and energy in challenging the conventional structures of the classical music genre and in so doing uncovering its democratic potential.

## 2012

London-based filmmaker **John Akomfrah** was chosen for his ground-breaking film oeuvre woven from perspectives often hidden from the mainstream narratives of European history; **Charles Esche** for his exceptional leadership in rethinking cultural centres and museums of art as public spaces, such as the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven that show us the power and value of art in engaging with the contemporary world.

## 2011

Sarajevo-based artist **Šejla Kamerić** uses photography, sculptural works, films and public installations to connect intimate perspectives to a wider social context and urgency; Istanbul-based artist and filmmaker **Kutluğ Ataman** for his video installations that form a rich tapestry of voices that refute the generalising effect of cultural stereotypes.

## 2010

Belgrade-based dramaturg **Borka Pavićević** who has optimistically sustained public discourse under truly difficult conditions, taking a firm stand against intolerance and cultural homogenization; Berlin-based theatre-maker **Stefan Kaegi**'s documentary theatre explores the unseen networks between cultures, cities, countries and continents, revealing both the central and peripheral lives of globalisation.

## 2008

Eminent cultural theorist and activist Professor **Stuart Hall**, whose hugely influential work has helped make sense of our multifarious, multicultural societies; **Jérôme Bel & Pichet Klunchun** for their performance 'Pichet Klunchun & Myself', a bold yet eloquent encounter that unravels the cultural differences between the two choreographers.

For more information on former Laureates, please visit the ECF website: [2008 Award](#), [2010 Award](#), [2011 Award](#), [2012 Award](#), [2013 Award](#), [2014 Award](#) and [2015 Award](#).



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## EUROPEAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The European Cultural Foundation believes that culture connects people as Europeans and helps to build a shared future. We initiate and support cultural exchange and creative expression across wider Europe. We do this because culture inspires, empowers and engages people to create democratic societies. We achieve our aims through our wide-ranging activities, advocacy, grants and co-publish and create new content both online and offline, building tools for the cultural sector.

The Award is presented by ECF's former President, HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, in whose honour it was established by the ECF with the support of the Dutch Ministries for Foreign Affairs and Education, Culture and Science.

The total Award money is € 50,000 (the two laureates receive € 25.000 each).



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