



## The ten best among over 1,500 applications – the Bloom Award by Warsteiner jury gathered around Joko Winterscheidt announces the 2015 finalists

COLOGNE/WARSTEIN, Germany, September 4, 2015 — The numbers speak for themselves: over 1,500 applicants from 75 countries and five continents. The application phase of the sixth edition of the international art competition Bloom Award by Warsteiner has once again come to an end with record-breaking results. From Thailand to Kenya to the US: Artists applied from around the world and no limits were placed on the work chosen by them.

Who made an impression with a new idea? Who chose the right form of expression and decisively followed through with it? The five-member jury occupied itself with these questions in order to select the ten best works among the many submissions. Catharina Cramer (patron and managing partner of the Warsteiner Group), Yasha Young (director and curator of Urban Nation), Jim Avignon (artist), Joko Winterscheidt (media host and Grimme-Preis winner) and Walter Gehlen (director and artistic director of Art.Fair und Bloom) did not make this choice easy for themselves. “To come back after three years and to see how many outstanding artists from so many countries have applied is simply mega” raved Joko Winterscheidt, who has now assisted the jury three times. Catharina Cramer, who has been a member of the jury since the first edition, also praised the quality of the submissions: “Every year I am delighted all over again by the high standard of the submissions. Impressive contributions from extremely diverse forms of art reach us. It is always a great pleasure to look through the works.”

The artists who have made it to the Top 10 have already secured a reward: All ten works will be presented to 36,000 visitors at Bloom – the converging art show, from September 24 to 27 in Cologne. The Bloom is a part of the Art.Fair | Fair for Modern and Contemporary Art, held simultaneously in the same venue, halls 1 & 2 of the koelnmesse convention center. The fact that the exhibition itself can provide an extraordinary springboard is demonstrated by the 2015 Art.Fair’s list of artists. Here we find Antoine Rose, Louise Gibson and Yi Zheng Lin: three of the ten finalists from last year alone.

This year the jury has found the following artists most convincing:

Oona Ball with *Burnt Out* (UK), John Bizas with *Still 7* (Italy), Kalypso with *Negua* (Germany), Liat Livni with *Jerusalem Boulevard, Jaffa* (Israel), Masoud Moein Eslam with *Tehran* (Iran), Erik Porstmann with *Kinderbilder* (Germany), Betty Rieckmann with *a morphing Frank Stella* (Germany), Johan Schäfer with *kleines grünes Auto* (Germany), Mark Swysen with *garden of eden: reconsiderations on the concept of the original sin* (Belgium), Kati von Schwerin with *I knew Pinocchio when he wasn’t famous* (Germany)

On September 23, the deciding question will finally be answered: Who will stand atop of the podium? The winners of places one through three will be announced at the award ceremony hosted by Anja Backhaus. Then we will learn who can look forward to a one-year mentoring program, a trip to Art Basel Miami Beach or an exhibition in a gallery.

### The Bloom Award by Warsteiner — a springboard for young artists

The Warsteiner Brewery originally called the award to life in 2010, in order to help artists gain a foothold in the international art market. Warsteiner gives them a platform to make their art available to a broad audience.

All other information regarding the Bloom Award by Warsteiner as well as the works of all the finalists can be found at: [www.bloomawardbywarsteiner.com/home\\_EN](http://www.bloomawardbywarsteiner.com/home_EN)

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**Warsteiner Brewery**

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