

Press Release

MAK Schindler Scholarships awarded for the academic year 2017/2018

For the 22nd time, an international jury selected the winners of the international MAK Schindler Scholarship Program (Artists and Architects-in-Residence Program) on 22 May 2017, which will be awarded by the Federal Chancellery of Austria, Section II: Art and Culture, in collaboration with the MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art. Of the 245 submissions from 40 nations, the jury came to a unanimous decision for six projects as well as three substitute projects. The scholarship holders are granted right of residence at the Pearl M. Mackey Apartments by Rudolph M. Schindler, one of the sites of the MAK Center for Art and Architecture in Los Angeles, for six months during the academic year 2017/2018 in order to realize the works they submitted.

The scholarships are aimed at freelance artists, advanced architecture students (“2. Studienabschnitt”), and recent architecture graduates. They are awarded for stand-alone projects that concentrate on and investigate the relationship between art and architecture. The primary focus is an exploration of the location of the residency, Los Angeles: the city has developed into a center of critical artistic, architectural, and urban-theoretical creativity. The scholarship holders are expected to capture the complex facets of life in the city and reflect them in their projects.

Twice a year, in March and September, the MAK Center presents the projects developed on site in the context of the *Final Projects* exhibitions. The documentation of the works is catalogued and remains in the MAK Center’s archive, the online version of which can be found at MAKcenterarchive.org.

“With our MAK Schindler Scholarships, young artists can spend six months working and networking in the art metropolis of Los Angeles. To date, some 226 scholarship holders have taken part in the program, which makes me particularly proud. I am convinced that stays abroad like this represent a great opportunity. Six months to work freely and creatively on ideas and projects with no pressure: that is hardly possible later on in a career. The path from Vienna to Kings Road in Los Angeles is a challenge, but also a fantastic opportunity to gain one’s first international experience,” according to Federal Minister for Arts and Culture Thomas Drozda.

The international jury, comprising Christian Kühn (Architect and Dean, Institute of Architecture and Design, TU Wien), Chus Martínez (Curator and Head, Institute of Art, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland – Academy of Art and Design, Basel), Florian Pumhösl (Artist, Vienna), Kolja Reichert (Art Critic, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Frankfurt/Main), and Christoph Thun-Hohenstein (General Director and Artistic Director, MAK), awarded scholarships to the following architects' and artists' projects:

Architecture Category:

2 October 2017 – 16 March 2018:

Alejandra Avalos, Guillermo Acosta, and Alan Rios (Mexico)

2 April – 14 September 2018:

Noemi Polo (Italy)

Fine Art Category:

2 October 2017 – 16 March 2018:

Flora Hauser (Austria)

Baptist Penetticobra (France)

2 April – 14 September 2018:

Gerry Bibby (Australia)

Aleksandra Domanović (Slovenia)

Substitute for the Architecture Category:

Christina Jauernik and Nora Amélie Sahr (Austria/Luxemburg)

Substitutes for the Fine Art Category:

Julia Curylo (Poland)

Misha Stroj and Giulia Gabrielli (Slovenia/Italy)

Jury's Statement:

Of the 245 projects submitted from 40 countries, a unanimous decision was reached for two projects from the field of architecture and four projects from the field of fine art, as well as a total of three substitute projects.

The decision of this year's jury has been based both on the quality of the work—an

artistic practice that shows ambition—and on a level of curiosity that will allow for qualitative interaction with the cultural context of Los Angeles, not to mention current artistic questions that might influence these artists' future practice. We signal the ambition of all the projects selected, plus the articulation of questions that engage with the conditions of the residency program, which open up on formal and speculative levels that may help, as well, to preserve the importance of the residency's character as a unique opportunity for thinking and developing projects in an international context, very much needed in today's cultural landscape.

In the field of architecture, the proposals selected emphasize the importance of different interpretative levels of reading the city, its elements, but also the different dynamics that an interdisciplinary approach can create among individuals and their situated architectural context. Both proposals, using a very different language, stress the importance of a practice that speculates with different futures in the field of architecture as a way of restating a new social contract.

MAK Press and PR

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