



Press Release, 27 October 2016

Announcement of nominees for the second INTERNATIONAL LIGHT ART AWARD 2017

**Initiators: Centre for International Light Art Unna and
innogy Foundation for Energy and Society**

The **nominees** for the **International Light Art Award** (ILAA) have been determined. Some 300 applications from more than 40 countries were filed during the open call for submissions. In 2017 the ILAA will be awarded for the second time.

The jury of experts selected **Tilman Küntzel (Germany)**, **Satoru Tamura (Japan)** as well as the duo **Matty Vroegop & Ed Schoonveld (The Netherlands)** to implement the concepts they submitted. Upon completion of the large-scale site-specific works the jury will reconvene in April in order to pick the winner of the ILAA.

John Jaspers, Director of the Centre for International Light Art Unna: *"What we noticed when we first saw the concepts that were handed in for this edition of ILAA, is that the background of light art becomes more complex with ingenious computer programmes behind it. Young artists want to explore the borders of what is technologically possible. We also saw that many artists are experimenting with light as a material as such, looking at all its possible effects, from light and shadow, reflection, rhythm, up to the refraction of light. The whole spectrum showed that light art meanwhile has become just as broad and varied as, for instance, painting or sculpture, and that it definitely is a challenging art movement."*

Production costs in the amount of up to € 10,000 will be paid by the organiser for the realisation of the three nominated concepts. In addition, the winner of the ILAA will receive a financial award in the amount of € 10,000. The **award ceremony** will take place at the Light Art Centre in Unna on **21 April 2017** and is connected to a four month **exhibition** of the three artists.

The **international jury of experts** includes: **Gregor Jansen** (Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, DE), **Pedro Cabrita Reís** (sculptor / installation artist, PT), **Jurgen Bey** (designer, NL), **Andreas Muxel & Martin Hesselmeier** (ILAA 2015 award winners, A/DE) and **Christina Kubisch** (installation artist, DE). Chairman of the jury: **Keith Sonnier** (USA).



Goal of the ILAA

The award and the accompanying exhibition serve the purpose of putting light art more in the focus of our society. It promotes artists who rise to the numerous challenges of this young genre and develop light art further in innovative and creative ways.

Centre for International Light Art Unna

The only museum in the world which specialises in presenting light art was founded in 2001. Ten meters below ground in the former Linden brewery's cooling and storage areas, it brings together the most important international light art objects. Most of the light art installations were specifically created for the local spaces, including works by James Turrell, Christian Boltanski, Ólafur Elíasson, Rebecca Horn, Joseph Kosuth, Brigitte Kowanz, Mischa Kuball, Christina Kubisch, Mario Merz, François Morellet, Jan van Munster, Stefan Reusse and Keith Sonnier.

innogy Foundation for Energy and Society

The ILAA was launched in 2015 by the innogy Foundation (formerly RWE Foundation) together with the Centre for International Light Art Unna. The foundation particularly promotes projects in the areas of education, local energy transition and digitalisation, thus wanting to make a contribution to a comprehensive understanding of energy in our society. It emerged from the RWE Youth Foundation in 2009 and has an equity capital of more than € 60 million at its disposal.

Zentrum für Internationale Lichtkunst Unna

Lindenplatz 1, 59423 Unna, Germany

+49 2303 10375

info@lichtkunst-unna.de

www.lichtkunst-unna.de

PR contact: ARTPRESS – Ute Weingarten

Danziger Str. 2, 10435 Berlin, Germany

+49 30 48 49 63 50

artpress@uteweingarten.de

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