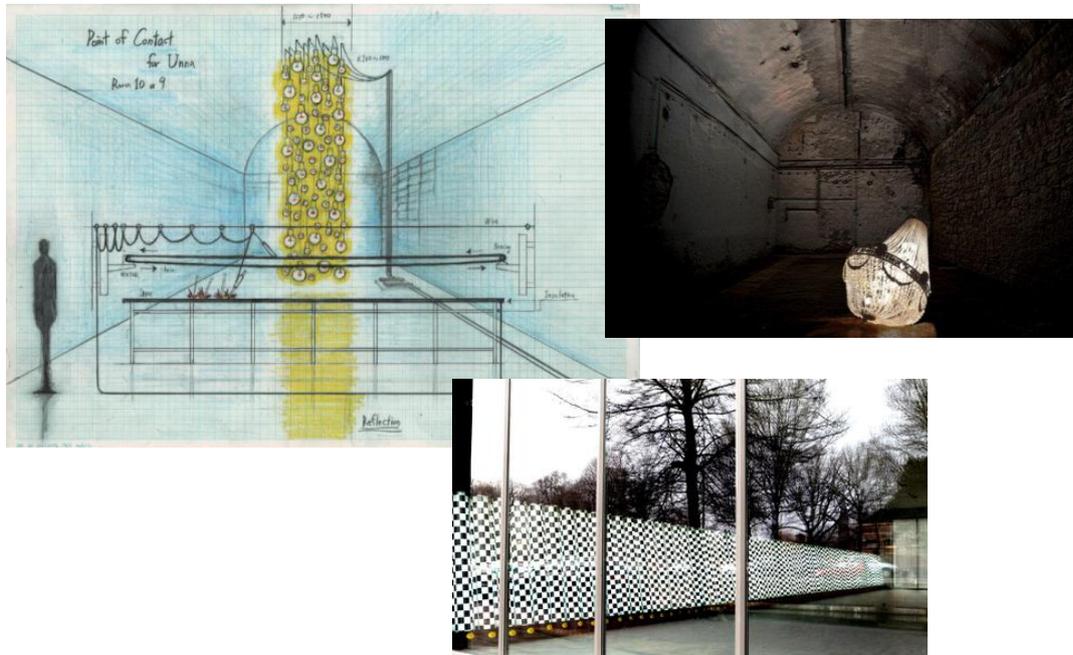


Press Release, January 26, 2017

AWARD CEREMONY AND EXHIBITION

INTERNATIONAL LIGHT ART AWARD 2017

April 21st, 2017, 7pm | CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LIGHT ART UNNA



f.l.t.r.: Satoru Tamura: Point of Contact for Unna, Sketch, 2016 © Satoru Tamura // Vroegop/Schoonveld: "ECHO, turning the light around", Installation at C-Projects The Hague NL © Vroegop/Schoonveld //Tilman Küntzel: Lüster/Chandelier, Sketch for Centre for International Light Art Unna, 2016 © Tilman Küntzel

On **April 21st**, this year's winner of the **International Light Art Award (ILAA)** will be known. The prize money of **10.000 Euros** will be handed over to the winner during an award ceremony, followed by the opening of the ILAA exhibition at the Centre for International Light Art in Unna. For this second edition of ILAA almost 300 concepts from over 40 countries were handed in, and then judged by an international jury chaired by US artist Keith Sonnier.

This year's finalists are **Tilman Küntzel (D)**, **Satoru Tamura (JPN)** and, the artist duo **Vroegop/Schoonveld (NL)**, whose site-specific installations will be shown for the first time on this same evening.

One day later, on April 22nd, the artworks that can be seen until September 4th, will be shown to the public audience for the first time during a family festival.

The winning Concepts

In **Tilman Küntzels** installation the light of 40 flickering light bulbs of a big crystal chandelier that lies on the ground, creates a spectrum of colours and dancing light movements on the walls and ceiling. His **"audiovisual installation with lustre"** not only fills the room through its luminosity, but also by means of acoustically noticeable switching noises, that are generated by failing circuits.

The Dutch artist duo **Vroegop/Schoonveld** has been nominated for their installation called **"ECHO, turning the light around"**. 200 rotating lamps with a black and white chequered pattern form the shape of the infinity symbol. Through the movement of the light a floating stream originates, which guides our eyes from the out- to the inside. The concept of the accessible light sculpture recurs to Taoist meditation, and in its reduced form echoes minimalist art.

The artworks of the Japanese multimedia artist **Satoru Tamura** are based on the theme of "the destruction of meaning", in order to create artworks out of pure and clear ideas, without any symbolism. An example is his installation **"Point of Contact for Unna"** which is, to put it simply, an open and exaggerated electric switch. Satoru Tamura does not define light as technology, but rather as a phenomenon. Electricity flows, lights switch on.

The members of this year's **international jury** are: **Gregor Jansen** (Kunsthalle Düsseldorf/D), **Pedro Cabrita Reis** (sculptor/installation artist/PT), **Jurgen Bey** (designer/NL), **Andreas Muxel & Martin Hesselmeier** (ILAA 2015 Award Winners, A/D) and **Christina Kubisch** (installation artist/D). Chairman of the jury: **Keith Sonnier** (artist/US).

The Initiators

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LIGHT ART UNNA

Founded in 2001, the centre is worldwide the only museum that specializes in presenting light art. Ten meters below ground, in the former Linden beer brewery's cooling and storage rooms, it brings together the most important international light art works. The majority of the installations were specifically created for these 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 Centre for International Light Art and the innogy Stiftung für Energie und Gesellschaft (formerly RWE Stiftung). The foundation particularly promotes projects in the areas of education, local energy transition and digitalization, 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

+49 30 48 49 63 50

artpress@uteweingarten.de

Press texts, artists' concepts, images: www.artpress-uteweingarten.de/presselounge

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