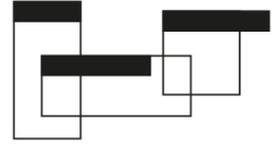




ARTISSIMA



PRESS RELEASE | Torino, 6 November 2020

Artissima 2020
illy Present Future Prize
Radamés “Juni” Figueroa is the winner of the 20th edition of the
illy Present Future Prize

Torino, 6 November 2020 – [Radamés “Juni” Figueroa](#) is the winner of the 20th edition of the illy Present Future Prize, promoted by **illycaffè** since 2001 and awarded to the most noteworthy artist of Present Future, the section of Artissima dedicated to emerging talents. The prize also offers its winner the exceptional opportunity to have a show in a museum in the Piedmont region, on the occasion of the next edition of Artissima.

Radames “Juni” Figueroa (Puerto Rico) is represented by Guatemala-based gallery **Proyectos Ultravioleta**.

The prize has been awarded by an international jury composed by **Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev**, director of Castello di Rivoli Museo d’Arte Contemporanea and Fondazione Francesco Federico Cerruti in Rivoli (Torino, Italy), **Chus Martínez**, director of Istituto d’Arte of FHNW Academy of Art and Design (Basel), and **Elvira Dyangani Ose**, director of The Showroom (London), with the following motivation:

The jury unanimously awards Radames “Juni” Figueroa the illy Prize because his works are conceived as a social, communal exercise aimed to develop a curriculum that combines art-making with lessons in living, in coexistence. His use of popular language in the making connects him with the ethos of Arte Povera while expressing through art that to make history is deeply connected with the personal narratives that compose the political. His practice is nourished by the paths of perceptions, sensations, feelings, thoughts. A generous practice able to address the community, to bear with them, of making them bear themselves.

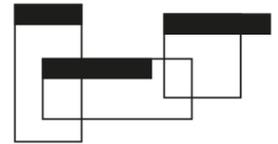
This year the jury was called to evaluate the proposals of the section online on [Artissima XYZ](#), the new cross-media platform that transforms the curated sections of the fair into an immersive digital experience. The 2020 edition of Present Future, dedicated to emerging talents up to 40 years of age, proposes artworks by **10 artists**, represented by **10 galleries** (9 foreign, 1 Italian), selected by a curatorial team composed of independent curators and writers **Ilaria Gianni** and **Fernanda Brenner**.

Assigned by to the project deemed most innovative, since 2012 the prize has offered its winner the opportunity to have a solo show at the Castello di Rivoli Museo d’Arte Contemporanea. In 2019 the award went to the Chinese artist **aaajiao**, presented by House of Ergon (Berlin), who is presenting the multimedia installation **DEEP SIMULATOR (2020)** curated by Marianna Vecellio at Castello di Rivoli. The exhibition, originally scheduled to open on November 5, will be visible in December 2020, compatibly with the release of new decrees.

Thanks to the commitment of illycaffè and to the partnership with Castello di Rivoli Museo d’Arte Contemporanea, the illy Present Future Prize has made an important contribution to the growth of emerging talents, confirming the innovative role of an internationally renowned art institution.



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Even in this extraordinary year, illy continues to support young artists, confirming the company's focus on the search for beauty in collaboration with the most creative talents on the contemporary scene. *"This is a long-term orientation, already in progress back in the 1990s, when in pursuit of the beauty that surrounds the ritual of coffee illy welcomed contemporary art into its DNA, discovering real affinities with this world – says Carlo Bach, Artistic Director of illycaffè. – Over time, this interest has taken on various forms and manifestations, such as the illy Present Future Prize, which since 2001 has enabled us to observe young talents in contemporary art, supporting their careers while gaining a privileged overview of the exponents that represent the present and will be pertinent figures in the near future. This year, perhaps more than ever before, it is important to send a signal of support to people active in the world of art, granting substance to their efforts".*

Over the years the project, now in its 20th edition, has involved key artists in the art world such as aaajiao, Pedro Neves Marques, Cally Spooner, Cécile B. Evans, Alina Chaidarov, Rachel Rose, Caroline Achaintre, Fatma Bucak, Vanessa Safavi, Santo Tolone, Naufus Ramírez-Figueroa, Tobias Putrih, Hans Op de Beeck, Gardar Eide Einarsson, Marc Bijl, Hans Schabus, Phil Collins, Jeremy Deller, Dora García, Tue Greenfort, David Maljkovic, Ryan Trecartin, Melanie Gilligan.

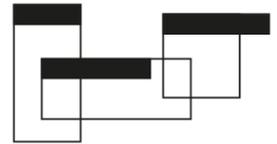
*Reflecting on the relationship between art, language and political turmoil, this special edition of Present Future will feature artists that see art as a way to explore their roles as citizens and social actors. Focusing on practices that listen and give voice to those who have not been in a social, political, geographical or cultural, situation of holding the microphone, instead of labeling and exploiting occurrences, the artists included in Present Future free narratives and imageries incapsulating multiple versions in History's timeline. Each work becomes an act of resistance, and as a breath itself, one for survival. Present Future 2020 involves the spectators in a complex discourse questioning languages and positions, visions and identities, offering a dynamic and plural interactive platform for discussion and interpretation that deliberately avoids all sorts of binary oppositions. **The curators of Present Future***

Artissima // Artissima is Italy's leading fair of contemporary art. Since its founding in 1994, it has combined presence on the international market with a vivid focus on experimentation and research. The fair is managed by Artissima srl, a company affiliated with Fondazione Torino Musei. The Artissima trademark belongs to Regione Piemonte, Città Metropolitana di Torino and Città di Torino. The 27th edition of Artissima is produced with the support of the three trademark holders, in collaboration with Fondazione CRT, Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and Camera di commercio di Torino.

illycaffè // illycaffè is an Italian family business, founded in Trieste in 1933, which has always set the mission to offer the best coffee to the world. illycaffè produces a single 100% Arabica blend, combining 9 of the best qualities according to the criteria of the company's tasters: every day 8 million cups of illy coffee are enjoyed in the world in more than 140 countries, in bars, restaurants and hotels, in cafes and in single-brand shops, and of course at home. The company's procurement strategy is based on four pillars: buying directly at the source, transferring knowledge to growers, recognizing them a premium price to make production sustainable and creating Circolo illy for producers. Since 2019 illycaffè is a Benefit Company. The company founded its University of Coffee with the aim of spreading the coffee culture at all levels. Everything that is 'made in illy' is enriched with beauty and art, the brand's founding values, starting with the logo, designed by the artist James Rosenquist, up to the cups that make up the illy Art Collection, decorated by more than 100 international artists. In 2019, the company employed 1405 people and has consolidated revenue of 520.5 million euros. illy single-brand stores and stores around the world are 269 in more than 40 countries.



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ARTISSIMA UNPLUGGED DIGITAL

Artissima XYZ (xyz.artissima.art)

3 November - 9 December 2020

Digital catalogue (artissima.art)

5 November - 9 December 2020

ARTISSIMA – International Fair of Contemporary Art

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