

fondazione merz

ARTISSIMA 28 EDITION 2021

Heba Y. Amin and Dominique White are the winners ex-quo of the first edition of the “ad occhi chiusi...” Prize based on the collaboration between Artissima and Fondazione Merz

Torino, 7 November 2021 – [Heba Y. Amin](#) and [Dominique White](#) are the winners of the first edition of the “**ad occhi chiusi...**” Prize, based on the collaboration between Artissima and **Fondazione Merz** and assigned to the international artist who best reflects the research activities of the foundation on young art of the Mediterranean.

Heba Y. Amin is presented by [Zilberman gallery](#), Istanbul and Berlin.

Dominique White is presented by [Veda gallery](#), Firenze.

The prize has been assigned by a jury is composed of **Gioia Dal Molin**, Head Curator, Istituto Svizzero, Roma, and **Agata Polizzi**, Curatorial coordinator, ZACentrale, Palermo, with this motivation:

Heba Y. Amin (1980, Egypt, lives and works in Berlin). Striking elegance and poetic narration, dense with references and memories, but extremely precise at the same time, in an incisive focus on the complexity of the present. The intelligent irony with which the artist investigates sensitive issues of great political and social relevance is very special.

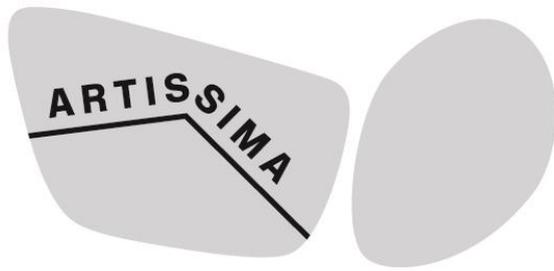
Dominique White (1993, Great Britain, lives and works in London and Marseille) works repeatedly with found materials, worn-out sails, ropes or buoys eroded by the sea, wood, palm fronds or seashells. The artist uses these items to develop installations that combine nautical myths of the African diaspora, ideas of Afro-futurism or the trauma of escape and migration.

The jury of the prize of Fondazione Merz “ad occhi chiusi...” is convinced that Heba Y. Amin and Dominique White, with their artistic practices and range of themes, can make an important contribution to the cultural and political reality of Palermo, enriching the vision of the Mediterranean region.

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The title of the prize takes its cue from a phrase by Marisa Merz, “When the eyes are closed they are extraordinarily open”, which prompts us to rethink how the artists - in the opacity of the general media riot, packed with images that are too fast and too superficial to be able to describe reality - offer a truly personal perspective. Palermo and Sicily represent multifaceted places containing multiple points of observation and perception due to their geographical location, in which contradictions and resolutions coexist, starting from cultural, linguistic and narrative stratification. Territories in which sensory as well as physical boundaries are repositioned and altered by the actions of those in transit.

At the first edition, the “**ad occhi chiusi...**” Prize offers to the winning artist, selected among the participants in the fair in 2021, the opportunity to participate in a residence in Sicily. The results of the research carried out during the residency will then be presented as part of the ZACentrale program at the Cantieri Culturali alla Zisa in Palermo, inaugurated in October 2021.



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ARTISSIMA - International Fair of Contemporary Art

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Oval, Lingotto Fiere Torino

4 November 2021 | preview

5–7 November 2021 | open to public

Artissima XYZ

1–3 November 2021 | preview

4–9 November 2021 | online

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 28th 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**.

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