

The Keppel Centre for Art Education National Gallery Singapore, winner of the 2018 Children in Museums Award

On Saturday 17 November at the NEMO Conference in Valetta, Malta, the results of the 2018 Children in Museums Award were announced. 35 museums took part in the competition this year, with a short-list of 12 finalists. The entries were of an extremely high quality and a real testament to the growing maturity of a relatively new field for the museum profession.

The judges were unanimous in their decision to make the Keppel Centre for Art Education at the National Gallery Singapore the winner of the 2018 Children in Museums Award. With its free admission and mantra 'Children first, parents second!' the Keppel Centre is an excellent example of a dynamic 21st century education centre within an art gallery, introducing children to art at an early age while acknowledging the importance of lifelong learning.

The winner receives a cash prize of 5,000 Euros and holds for one year a bronze statue of Miffy, the world-famous children's character, created by Dick Bruna. The sculptor is Marc Bruna, Dick Bruna's son.

The Museum of Puppetry, Ljubljana, Slovenia received a Special Commendation for its strong commitment to make a collection of national relevance accessible to young visitors by encompassing both a multi-layered presentation, which shows the collection's richness and the urgency of preservation as well as its great potential for learning and new ideas, targeted at different age-spans.

Background of the Award

The Children's Museum Award was established in 2011 by the European Museum Academy and Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums to enhance the recognition of excellence in the specific sector of international children's museums. In 2014 the name of the Award was changed to the Children in Museums Award, to reflect the wider range of provision for children in today's museums. Applications are welcomed from children's museums and from education, children departments in museums and science centres, both long-established and recently opened.

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Background information

Summary from the Judges' Report:

The judges were unanimous in their decision to make the Keppel Centre for Art Education, National Gallery Singapore the winner of the 2018 Children in Museums Award. With its free admission and mantra 'Children first, parents second' the Keppel Centre is an excellent example of a dynamic 21st century education centre within an art gallery, introducing children to art at an early age while acknowledging the importance of lifelong learning. The exhibitions are constantly inspired by the permanent collections of the museum and encourage families to visit the National Gallery as well as the Keppel Centre. The involvement of local artists who are inspired by the museum collections, in collaboration with the dedicated education team, has led to the production of excellent, well designed exhibitions for younger visitors.

2018 Short-Listed Museums

Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Manuka (ACT), Australia

Museums Victoria – Scienceworks, Melbourne, Australia

LEGO House, Billund, Denmark

Young Museum, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

MUSE, Science Museum of Trento, Italy

EYE Film Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Children's Book Museum, The Hague, The Netherlands

Railway Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands

The Keppel Centre for Art Education, National Gallery Singapore

Museum of Puppetry, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Museum of Communication, Bern, Switzerland

Winnie-the-Pooh Exhibition and Family Learning programme, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK

Previous Winners of the Award

- 2012** Tropenmuseum Junior, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2013** Please Touch Museum, Philadelphia, USA
- 2014** National Gallery of Denmark (SMK), Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2015** Lifetime Achievement Awards: Boston Children's Museum, USA and ZOOM Children's Museum, Vienna, Austria
- 2016** GeoFort, Herwijnen, The Netherlands
- 2017** National Museum of Science and Technology, Stockholm, Sweden

The European Museum Academy

EMA is a non-profit Foundation established to reflect museums at the international level, to promote research on museography and museology as a high cultural activity, to provide constructive criticism and promote discussion on new exhibitions and museums, and to disseminate museological knowledge and ideas among members of the profession. It aims to promote the conception and development of new as well as of traditional museums as tools of social change. EMA co-operates with Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums for this Award. EMA members of the Jury of the Award are also members of the EMA Pool of Experts.

www.europeanmuseumacademy.eu

Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums

Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums is an international professional organisation representing and advocating for its non-profit member institutions. It actively stimulates the creation and development of children's museums (including science centres, large collections based institutions serving young visitors) and more space for cultural and educational activities for children and young people. Hands On! supports the important role of children's museums as centres where play inspires creativity, informal and lifelong learning.

www.hands-on-international.net