



## PRESS RELEASE 21 SEPTEMBER 2019

### EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY AWARDS

At a colourful ceremony held in Ljubljana Castle, Ljubljana, Slovenia, the results of the 2019 Micheletti Award and the DASA Award were announced.

**THE MICHELETTI AWARD** was presented to ASTRA NATIONAL MUSEUM COMPLEX, SIBIU, ROMANIA. When the museum was established in 1963 its focus was on the technical side of Romanian rural patrimony, with its unique collection of mills for grinding, oil and fruit presses, sawmills and some peasant industries. Since the 1990s the message has changed. It is now the largest ethnographical open-air museum in Europe, with 400 buildings on an area of c.100 hectares. A living museum, it retains its traditional culture but puts more emphasis on immaterial patrimony. It hosts traditional fairs, workshops, folk festivals and performances as well as conferences, with visitors invited to work, learn and play alongside craftsmen, musicians and dancers. Romania's rich heritage is on display, including that of all the minority ethnic groups. The Open Heritage project means that for the first time in an open-air museum the necessary infrastructure was built in order to generate and validate the whole Romanian rural story, regardless of ethnic origin. The institution undertakes research in many fields – museology, sociology, anthropology, photography, restoration and conservation. Revival of old craft centres has led to the emergence of young craftsmen and apprentices who have realised the value of exploiting inherited but neglected resources.

**The judges said:** The museum is deeply involved in connection the different ethnic minorities and their stories and puts a great deal of effort into supplementing this with all kinds of festivities, plays and demonstrations. The Open Heritage project is an excellent example of how important collaboration between cultural institutions from different countries can be for the development of all the partners and the world of museums as such. This can only be achieved with corresponding funding, of course. ASTRA is an innovative, creative open-air museum, organising its huge, rich collection in a way that highlights present-day issues such as migration, sustainability and biodiversity. We offer our sincere congratulations on what has been achieved so far and look forward to seeing even more innovations in the future.

**THE DASA AWARD** this year goes to THE WORKERS' MUSEUM, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK. Founded in 1983, the museum is dedicated to the history of Danish workers over the past 150 years. Focal points of the collections are the political, social and economic conditions of Danish labour history, as well as the labour movement of the country. It takes an active role in strengthening European co-operation among labour history museums and research institutions. Today the work of the museum concentrates on current challenges of

contemporary society, such as democratic participation, human rights, political activism, climate change and international solidarity. The educational programmes are outstanding and those for children are engaging and innovative. All the exhibitions are developed with peer groups that continue to monitor the reactions to the exhibitions until they close. The very creative temporary exhibition, 'The Clever Hands' has been developed to help a centre for youth studies and aims to challenge young pupils and students on craftsmanship and bring the museum work closer to young craftsmen. This exhibition also involved the museum's largest off-site event programme to date, bringing together the museum and communities across Denmark in dialogue about the future of manual labour.

**The judges said:** The Workers' Museum has successfully set out to re-think and reinterpret the concept of the labour museum. With its educational programmes it has become a thriving institution, engaging particularly children of all age-groups in the fundamental learning process of political action. Education and dialogue on how to link the past, present and future is central in the museum. It is based on research supplemented with the help of peer groups and experiences shared on a national and international level. The museography, especially in the temporary exhibition 'The Clever Hands', is interactive and innovative. The museum empowers young people to participate actively in the political and social process of our times, processes that are defining the future of all of us. We need more institutions like this and offer the museum team our warmest congratulations.

#### **LIST OF FINALISTS FOR THE 2019 EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY AWARDS**

- **Workers' Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark**
- **Sir John Monash Centre, Fouilloy, France**
- **ASTRA National Museum Complex, Sibiu, Romania**
- **Museum Centre 'Peace Square', Krasnoyarsk, Russia**

**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 diffuse 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. The Micheletti Award is organised to illustrate best museum practice, in co-operation with the Micheletti Foundation. Thirty-eight countries are currently represented within the EMA organisation. [www.europeanmuseumacademy.eu](http://www.europeanmuseumacademy.eu).

**THE LUIGI MICHELETTI FOUNDATION (Fondazione Biblioteca Archivio Luigi Micheletti)** LMF (established in 1981 in Brescia) is a research centre specialising in 20<sup>th</sup>-century history. Scientific research covers ideologies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, wars, the ambivalence of technical progress, industrialization and labour, conspicuous consumption, the origin of environmentalism. The ideological, social and material contemporary history, led by international researches and conferences, is linked to a rich collection: writings, postcards, photos, posters, videos, audio documents, but also objects, furniture and machines. It is in this context that the **musil – Museum of Industry and Labour** – was created, in order to focus on the recovery of productive

plants and whole urban areas. [www.fondazionemicheletti.eu](http://www.fondazionemicheletti.eu); [www.musilbrescia.it](http://www.musilbrescia.it);  
[www.luigimichelettiaward.eu](http://www.luigimichelettiaward.eu); [www.luigimichelettiaward.eu](http://www.luigimichelettiaward.eu)

**DASA WORKING WORLD EXHIBITION (DASA Arbeitswelt Ausstellung)** DASA in Dortmund covers the past, present and future worlds of work in an area of about 13.000 m<sup>2</sup>, with 12 exhibition units and three-dimensional exhibits. It is the permanent educational facility of the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Care (Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin) and informs the public about the world of work, its status for the individual and society, and the importance of tailoring work to human requirements. The relationship between people, work and technology is demonstrated and explained in a variety of ways in the exhibition. The central theme is to establish human values at work, such as good health and dignity. DASA focuses on people and their physical, intellectual, social and cultural needs. [www.dasa-dortmund.de](http://www.dasa-dortmund.de)

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