



European Museum Academy

A European Museum Expertise Foundation

Press Release from the European Museum Academy

In 2021 for the second time the European Museum Academy invited students on master level programmes to participate in our efforts to stimulate further development of the museum sector in Europe. More than 75 European universities were invited to contribute with one master paper in English, from which a panel of judges from the European Museum Academy pool of experts would select **The European Museum Academy Master Study of the Year**. *The overall criteria for assessing the master studies have been the extent of European relevance and inspiration.*

Universities kept an eye open during the academic year for especially interesting master studies in museology, museum studies or museum education. The deadline for submitting a master study for our panel of judges was 1 October 2021. Eligible contributions are master studies submitted to universities in Europe after 1 October 2020.

The European Museum Academy jury for this Academy award 2021 was:

- Dr Loukia Loizou Hadjigavriel, director, The A. G. Leventis Gallery in Nicosia
- Professor Guido Fackler, Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg
- Professor Massimo Negri, scientific director, European Museum Academy (chair of jury)

I am happy to announce the result of the judges' deliberations:

Winner:

We congratulate *Anastasia Serikova* from *the St. Petersburg State Institute of Culture* as the winner in the competition for the European Museum Academy Master Study of the Year 2021 Award with the following thesis:

"The Interpretation of Dissonant Heritage in Museum Institutions in Russia and Germany"

From the judges' assessment:

'The European relevance of the topic is given and is expressed here by the comparison of two countries. The work is clearly and concisely structured and treats the topic methodologically stringent: after a profound overview of various theoretical concepts, the research criteria derived from this for the study of Difficult Heritage are applied in a coherent and comprehensible manner

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to museums in Germany and Russia, where the historic experience of totalitarianism has been especially devastating and has left a relevant legacy both in terms of memory and tangible heritage. The presentation is well structured, and cases are presented in a detailed and well documented manner. The text is fluent and interesting.

Difficult Heritage is a thematic that touches museums all over Europe. How to deal and present contemporary history is also a subject for discussion among museum curators and archivists. History is being re-written in view of new archival material every year. But difficult history and historical facts and geopolitical issues are always in the front line of historical museums. This work offers a very good overview of the main developments of these problems as far as museum representation is concerned in both countries examined. The jury hopes to see development of the present work, including a more comparative study with other European examples to be elaborated in depth, comparing the actions and methods used in Russia and Germany with other historical and cultural contexts.'

Henrik Zipsane

EMA Director

Landskrona, January 2022

About the European Museum Academy

The European Museum Academy 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. The European Museum Academy was established in 2009 on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the loss of the distinguished museologist Kenneth Hudson (1916-1999) by a group of professionals active in the museum field and the cultural sector in general.

European Museum Academy Awards

Over the years, the European Museum Academy has developed an extensive awards scheme: the European Museum Academy Prize, the Art Museum Award, the Luigi Micheletti Award, the DASA Award, the Heritage in Motion Award and the Master Study of the Year Award. The Academy is also a partner in other award schemes, including the Children in Museums Award, the Živa Award and the Museum in Short Awards. The different awards represent and emphasize different aspects of the European Museum Academy's underlying values.

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