

# 2022 EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY AWARDS

## Art Museum Award

### The Judges' Report



## Confirmed Candidates

### **State Gallery of Lower Austria, Krems, Austria**

THE STATE GALLERY OF LOWER AUSTRIA in Krems, Austria, opened in May 2019, is the newest addition to the 'Kunstmeile in Krems', a center for the exploration of art and culture. On an exhibition space of about 3,000 sqm, the museum combines the State Collections of Lower Austria as well as important private collections and reacts to issues of the present with thematic and temporary exhibitions. The intention of involving the local community in participatory projects plays an important role in the museum's practice since the opening in 2019. In the exhibition 'Masks and Traces of Refugees' (2020-2021) refugee artists expressed their experiences from an intimate and personal viewpoint. During the exhibition, the State Gallery of Lower Austria also established a cooperation with organisations that work with immigrants, such as the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and the Caritas. The judges commended the museum's vision of exploring the role of museums as a meeting place for the community and have praised the social and inclusive approach to act "beyond the art bubble" through participatory exhibitions and workshops addressing societal challenges.

### **The Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Cork, Ireland**

The LEWIS GLUCKSMAN GALLERY in Cork, Ireland, named after one of its founding donors, the American financier and philanthropist Lewis Glucksman, was opened in 2004. The following year, in 2005, the city of Cork was the European capital of culture. Located on the grounds of the University College Cork the museum provides an important link for the university with the wider public as a place of creative connections between people and disciplines. The collection is based on modern and contemporary Irish art. The museum places sustainability and inclusion at the center of their policy and activities, which is also reflected by the award-winning building, designed by O'Donnell + Tuomey architects. The Glucksman team has developed digital programmes and carried out large-scale projects onsite in the gallery spaces, as well as offsite in public spaces. The projects moved to the city centre have enabled participants from marginalized and rural communities such as Traveller, refugees, LGBTQ+ and families experiencing homelessness to find a way to express themselves in society through creative agency. The staff has realized impressive results with their projects which serve as inspiration for museums all over the world, which was praised by the judges.

### **Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean (MUDAM), Luxembourg, Luxembourg**

The first of two Art Museum Award candidates from Luxembourg is the MUDAM-MUSEE D'ART MODERNE GRAND-DUC JEAN, LUXEMBOURG, GRAND-DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG. It opened in 2006 in a purpose-built building designed by the renowned Sino-American architect Ieoh Ming Pei. The building is located in the Park Dräi Eechelen, overlooking the historic city of Luxembourg. MUDAM's ambition is to serve as a reference museum for contemporary art and a model institution in Luxembourg in terms of artistic and cultural excellence. The museum's mission is to collect, conserve and present the most relevant contemporary art of our time and to make it accessible to a diverse public. It has built up a small but impressive collection of modern and contemporary art, combining some well-known names with emerging artists. There is a lively programme of exhibitions, publications, as well as artistic and educational activities. MUDAM fosters research and dialogue while giving special attention to the changing nature of art and its production in the world. The judges have praised MUDAM's impressive commitment to their social responsibility and the museum's demonstration of innovation and empathy in some of their latest public engagement activities.

### **Villa Vauban, Luxembourg, Luxembourg**

Located in a historic park in Luxembourg, the VILLA VAUBAN-MUSEE D'ART DE LA VILLE DE LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG, GRAND-DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG is a fine arts museum with collections of European paintings, sculptures and drawings from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 2010, the Villa Vauban-Musée d'Art de la Ville de Luxembourg reopened after a major renovation and the addition of a modern extension. The modern extension houses the permanent Old Masters collection, while the Luxembourg Art collection is displayed separately in the original building. The original mansion is also used for temporary exhibitions and there has been an impressive number of collaborations with international museums over the past decade. In June 2021, the opening of a permanent exhibition in the contemporary building of the Villa Vauban-Musée d'Art de la Ville de Luxembourg has marked a new stage in the museum's development. The exhibition called 'A stroll through art' invites the visitor to explore European painting and sculpture from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with a strong focus on Dutch and French paintings. The museum offers guided tours in four languages and encourages children to explore the museum with a variety of educational projects for schools and families. With the help of immersive multimedia and the use of 'simple language', the museum has worked on transforming their permanent exhibition into an inclusive audience centred space. Furthermore, it has included relief models in the presentations to enable visitors to explore art by means of sight and touch. The museum's objective

to connect with a broad audience has led to in depth visitor research being carried out, which the judges see as very promising for the future.

### **National Gallery of North Macedonia, Skopje, North Macedonia**

THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF NORTH MACEDONIA in Skopje, North Macedonia, was founded in 1948. Its mission is to collect, preserve and promote the cultural heritage of about 3000 artworks from the ex-Yugoslav and Macedonian collection that they own, as well as to organize temporary exhibitions on contemporary Macedonian art. The collections and activities are housed in two historical bathhouses (Daut Pasha Hamam (15th c.) and Chifte Hamam), in the historical private house of artist Lazar Licenovski (1901-1964) and in the urban Multimedia Center Mala Stanica (an old military storage from 1924). The museum is competing for the Art Museum Award with the exhibition 'Future Ecology-The Touch'. The exhibition was organized in September and October 2021 by the National Gallery of North Macedonia in the Multimedia Centre Mala Stanica in Skopje. It showed works from Macedonian artists as well as from the collection of the British Council and LUX, a London based international arts agency that supports and promotes artists' moving image practice. The exhibition tackled important questions of our time such as the protection of our natural surroundings, colonization and de-colonization, medical industries, gender issues and many others that challenge our contemporary society. Part of the public programme was to enable the audience to tap into online conversations with artists and curators. Furthermore, the audience could participate in inter- and transdisciplinary panel discussions, curatorial guided tours and workshops, that were also accessible for people with disabilities.

### **Galerija Božidar Jakac, Kostanjevica na Krki, Slovenia**

Founded in 1974, the GALERIJA BOŽIDAR JAKAC Art Museum is located in the restored building of the former Cistercian monastery near Kostanjevica na Krki, one of Slovenia's finest medieval monuments, which is situated in the picturesque landscape of south-eastern Slovenia. With its over 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> of exhibition surfaces it is among the largest gallery complexes in Slovenia. The Galerija Božidar Jakac presents the artistic legacy of the Bela Krajina, Dolenjska and Posavje regions as well as covering Slovenian expressionism and contemporary artistic production on regional, national and international levels. The museum is widely known for its symposium open to Slovenian and international sculptors whose works are exhibited in the "Forma Viva Sculpture Park" in the surrounding area. The museum actively involves its young audience in a variety of educational programs, for instance by teaching children to write and publish art criticism.

### **ACCIONA Cultural Engineering, Madrid, Spain**

'Life and Work of Frida Kahlo' is an audio-visual exhibition designed, produced, and promoted not by a public museum, but by a private company called ACCIONA CULTURAL ENGINEERING, which is a division of the large Spanish construction and real estate group Acciona. The exhibition was developed in collaboration with an international curatorial team and combines cinematic and traditional museum experiences featuring large-scale audio-visual elements. More than a hundred plastic artworks, literary pieces and photographs pay tribute to the renowned Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. The creators of the exhibition are fully aware that they are not presenting original paintings, but a multi-media show. They hope to build a low-threshold bridge to reach numerous people who will later view the original works in various museums and galleries. At the end of the exhibition visitors can find a 300 square meter gallery showing reproductions of a selection of Frida Kahlo's works – an extension that was built at the request of visitors who wanted to learn more about the paintings themselves. The judges have described the exhibition 'Life and Work of Frida Kahlo' as an impressive audio-visual exhibition that has offered numerous visitors easy access to the art of this Mexican artist. With its positive environmental balance, the exhibition serves as a successful model in terms of sustainability.

### **Elgiz Museum, Maslak/Istanbul, Turkey**

The ELGIZ MUSEUM was founded by the collectors Sevda and Can Elgiz as the first contemporary art museum in Turkey in 2001. The museum occupies a modern building in one of the business districts of Istanbul. Most of the museum's activities are centered around the founding family's collection of Turkish and international modern and contemporary art. Besides exhibiting the family's collection, the museum usually organizes two temporary shows per year. In 2021, a terrace space for large scale sculpture shows was introduced. The Elgiz Museum has hosted exhibitions and projects for curators, up-and-coming artists, and institutions, showcasing Turkish art. The museum's mission is formulated in a very general and traditional way: promoting contemporary art to Turkish society. The museum's last two exhibitions both touched upon well-known issues that challenge contemporary society: the exhibitions 'Nature, Gardens, Dreams' and 'Myths and Dreams' have focused on ecology and the climate crisis. The museum also runs an education program for children and a public program consisting of performances, conferences or discussions.

## Preamble

This European Museum Academy Award is dedicated to honour and highlight museal projects that work with art in an innovative, pioneering, and creative way in order to address or respond to current social issues that are a major challenge to our contemporary society. It is about museums functioning as “social arenas” as societally relevant meeting places.

Applications are welcome that are dealing with topics like participation, inclusion, people with special needs, gender equality, democratic process, migration, immigration, racial justice, decolonization, community building, challenges of globalization, sustainability, climate change, health care, resilience to crises like the Covid 19 pandemic.

The award is built upon democratic and human values that should be the driving force for new museal ideas for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is meant to identify new role models of excellence that could function as inspiring paragons of the social role of museums. Eligible to apply are not only art museums, but all other museums and galleries that work with art or art interventions.

### Criteria for the Award

- **Organization**  
Managerial skills; administrative structures; code of ethics; resilience; sustainability; empowerment of the team; inclusion as far as the people working in the museum are concerned; fundraising initiatives; commercial development.
- **Innovation, creativity, inspiration**  
New ideas or innovative and creative practices as far as social issues are concerned (methodologies, technologies, new forms of engaging the audience; digital strategy...)
- **Social responsibility**  
How does the museum tackle the challenges of our current society, show social relevance and responsibility?
- **Participation and inclusion**  
Policies and programs that aim at participation and inclusion; educational and/or outreach programs.

- **Sustainability**  
Commitment to sustainability strategy. Sustainability can figure as the main topic or as just one dimension of another topic – or it can play no role at all.
- **Digital strategy**  
Does a distinctive digital strategy play a role in the museum's approach?
- **Network**  
In what networks is the museum involved? From local to international.
- **Public discourse**  
The role of the museum as a meeting place for the community, initiating discussion and exchange of ideas. Does the project stir up public discourse? What media come into play? Do participatory formats play a role?
- **Impact**  
Impact on public discourse - locally, nationally or internationally; the role of the museum as a meeting place for the community, initiating discussion. Does the museum provide a role model that can be used by others? Does the project change the way you think about art?
- **Overall strategy**  
Is there an overall strategy recognizable wherein the competing museum program/approach is embedded? (museology; museography, socio-political context ...)

## The 2022 Panel of Judges

**Mladen Banjac, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Senior curator, Museum of Contemporary Art of Republika Srpska, (MOCARS) Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Annemies Broekgaarden, The Netherlands**

Head of Public and Education Department, Chair of steering group “diversity and inclusion”, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Karen Grøn, Denmark**

Director of Trapholt Museum of Modern Art, Craft and Design, Kolding, Denmark

**Sir John Leighton, United Kingdom**

Director General National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

**Louisa Leventis, United Kingdom**

Art Historian-Museologist, Director Leventis Foundation

**Karl Borromaeus Murr, Germany**

Director / State Textile and Industry Museum, Augsburg, Germany, Chairman of the Board, European Museum Academy

**Bernhart Schwenk, Germany**

Head Curator, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany

**Jaroslaw Suchan, Poland**

Independent Curator and Researcher, Former Director of Muzeum Sztuki in Lodz, Poland

**Danièle Wagener, Luxembourg**

Honorary Director of the Museums of the City of Luxembourg, Chairwoman of the Jury



## THE RESULTS

### Finalists for the 2022 Art Museum Award

- The Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Cork, Ireland
- MUDAM-Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg
- Villa Vauban-Musée d'Art de la Ville de Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg

## 2022 Special Commendation

### MUDAM, Luxembourg, Luxembourg

The MUDAM-MUSEE D'ART MODERNE GRAND-DUC JEAN, LUXEMBOURG, GRAND-DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG opened in 2006 in a purpose-built building designed by the renowned Sino-American architect Ieoh Ming Pei. The building is located in the Park Dräi Eechelen, overlooking the historic city of Luxembourg. MUDAM's ambition is to serve as a reference museum for contemporary art and a model institution in Luxembourg in terms of artistic and cultural excellence. The museum's mission is to collect, conserve and present the most relevant contemporary art of our time and to make it accessible to a diverse public. It has built up a small but impressive collection of modern and contemporary art, combining some well-known names with emerging artists. There is a lively programme of exhibitions, publications, as well as artistic and educational activities. MUDAM fosters research and dialogue while giving special attention to the changing nature of art and its production in the world.

**The judges said:** MUDAM is a young museum with huge potential to bring world-class contemporary art to new audiences. MUDAM's commitment to social responsibility and to addressing issues of inequality is very impressive and they have demonstrated innovation and empathy in some of their latest public engagement activities.



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## 2022 Art Museum Award Winner

### The Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Cork, Ireland

The LEWIS GLUCKSMAN GALLERY in Cork, Ireland, named after one of its founding donors, the American financier and philanthropist Lewis Glucksman, was opened in 2004. The following year, in 2005, the city of Cork was the European capital of culture. Located on the grounds of the University College Cork it provides an important link for the university with the wider public as a place of creative connections between people and disciplines. The collection is based on modern and contemporary Irish art. The museum places sustainability and inclusion at the center of their policy and activities, which is also reflected by the award-winning building, designed by O'Donnell + Tuomey architects. The Glucksman team has developed digital programmes and carried out large-scale projects onsite, in the gallery spaces, as well as offsite, in public spaces. The projects moved to the city centre have enabled participants from marginalized and rural communities such as Traveller, refugees, LGBTQ+ and families experiencing homelessness to find a way to express themselves in society through creative agency.

**The judges said:** The museum puts sustainability and inclusion at the core of their mission, and the staff has realized impressive results with their projects which serve as inspiration for museums all over the world. The museum brings communities and artists together, in order to explore and visualise their thoughts and opinions on important societal issues. This way visual art becomes a powerful tool of expression. Many projects also become part of the museum's presentation. In an aesthetic way process and results are shared with audiences that visit the museum.



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