



European Museum Academy



Press release, 10 September 2022

## WINNERS EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY AWARDS 2022 ANNOUNCED

Tonight, the winners of three different Awards by the European Museum Academy (EMA) were announced: the Luigi Micheletti Award 2022, the DASA Award 2022 and the Art Museum Award 2022. The Awards ceremony took place at MUDAM-Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg, following the annual EMA conference, which was held in Esch-sur-Alzette and the Esch-Belval university district from September 8-10.

Andreja Rihter, EMA President, said: *"It has been a great joy for us to be able to visit in person the museums applying for this year's Micheletti and DASA Awards, after the past two years when we have been unable to do so in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is one of the cornerstones of our award scheme to visit every museum which enters our competition, and we appreciate the value, especially for smaller museums, of having the opportunity to take part in face-to-face discussions with the jury members who come to your country. While it was important for us to maintain the continuity of the awards by conducting online judging conversations for the 2020/21 Awards, there is no substitute for these personal dialogues."*

**THE LUIGI MICHELETTI AWARD** goes to the **Woodcarving Museum** in Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, which depicts the history of the woodcarving tradition in this Bosnian town. This artistic craft was put on the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2017. It also portrays a model for the preservation of traditional crafts by building bridges between the craft and modernistic design. Gano Nikšić, the director's great grandfather, discovered a primitive hand-carving technique originating in a small village near Konjic. He perfected the technique and collaboration with established furniture makers in Sarajevo led to worldwide recognition of the craft. Gano passed his skills on to his four sons and the family has been designing and building heirloom-quality hand-carved furniture for more than four generations. The collection contains historical documents and archive material, including original photographs of woodcarvers, the luxury interiors they decorated, and illustrations from exhibitions at major international exhibitions at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Involvement of the local community has expanded through collaboration with local cultural institutions in the organisation of events, workshops and live demonstrations of woodworking skills.

**The judges said:** This is a good example of intangible heritage preservation and enhancement, a totally private initiative which could be an incentive to cultural investment in a part of Europe which is in extreme need of local development based on culture. The very well thought out exhibition concept comes into its own with the help of an impressive scenography. The museum is an excellent communicator of an intangible world heritage that has arrived as a living tradition in the 21st century - a role model for other world heritage sites.

A SPECIAL COMMENDATION was awarded to the **Deutsches Museum Nürnberg, Zukunftsmuseum**, Germany, the judges praising the new co-operation between science, industry and museology, its inclusion of all its visitors and the fact the museum does not shy away from talking about fears and failures.

**THE DASA AWARD** this year goes to the **Hans Christian Andersen House** in Odense, Denmark. The circular geometry of the building means there is no hierarchy of space, and visitors proceed on sloping walkways from one area to another. The spatial form continues throughout the building, echoing Andersen's organic literary style. The museum's ambition is to create an 'Andersenian Universe', whereby reality is suspended, and the visitor becomes a character in a story on a voyage of discovery which appeals to children and adults. The exhibits on Andersen's life reveal why the author's tales are humorous but sometimes ambiguous and rarely have happy endings. The educational and didactic approach emphasise the empowerment that gives all children their own voice in the development of creative narratives. Tours and programmes are cleverly planned to stimulate different creative energies and appeal to all the senses and make numerous references to real society and its problems, such as environmental or gender issues. Paradoxically this universe of an otherworldly fantasy offers a mirror of possibilities for our own society. 'Everybody can play a part' is the motto. Interactivity and participation, with democratic technologies, are absolutely the focus.

**The judges said:** The Hans Christian Andersen House pays homage to human imagination – a force of inestimable importance for our society. With its impressive architecture and masterful scenography its universal appeal will be appreciated by lovers of Andersen's work. The various and multi-faceted educational programmes empower young people to discover the power of creativity, to translate it into an expressive language and thus to become mature and confident human beings. This is a role model from which adults can learn much.

A SPECIAL COMMENDATION was awarded to the **Museum of Emigration** in Gdynia, Poland, a museum which is a leading example of quietly turning the historic museum approach into a fully connected one, without losing anything of the historical perspective. It is a model for the future of museums.

**THE ART MUSEUM AWARD** goes to the **Lewis Glucksman Gallery** in Cork, Ireland, named after one of its founding donors, the American financier and philanthropist Lewis Glucksman, which opened in 2004. The following year, in 2005, the city of Cork was the European Capital of Culture. Located in 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 centre 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. These projects have enabled participants from marginalized and rural communities such as travellers, refugees, LGBTQ+ and families experiencing homelessness to find a way to express and visualize their thoughts and opinions on important societal issues through creative agency.

**The judges said** excellence in curatorial practice, collections care and audience engagement constitute the core values of the Glucksman. The staff has realized impressive results with their projects, which serve as an inspiration for museums all over the world. The museum brings communities and artists together, to explore, visualise and express their thoughts and opinions on important societal issues. The Glucksman prioritises its role as a civic institution that enables creative agency among diverse communities and is therefore well-deserving of the Art Museum Award.

A SPECIAL COMMENDATION was awarded to the **MUDAM-Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean**, Luxembourg, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, the judges praising 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.

## **FINALISTS FOR THE 2022 EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY AWARDS**

### **Luigi Micheletti and DASA Awards**

- Deutsches Museum Nürnberg, Zukunftsmuseum, Germany
- Hans Christian Andersen House, Odense, Denmark
- Museum of Emigration, Gdynia, Poland
- Vest-Agder Museum, Kristiansand, Norway
- Woodcarving Museum, Konjic, Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Art Museum Award

- 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

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LE GOUVERNEMENT  
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG  
Ministère de la Culture

*We thank Esch2022, European Capital of Culture 2022, for supporting the Awards event*



**ESCH-SUR-ALZETTE**  
**EUROPEAN CAPITAL**  
**OF CULTURE**

## Notes to editors:

**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. Forty-four 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 research 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 **I**ndustry and **L**abour – 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)

## **A.G. LEVENTIS FOUNDATION**

Established in May 1979, the A. G. Leventis Foundation is the outcome of the vision of the

Cypriot entrepreneur Anastasios G. Leventis (1902-1978), who had set out the primary objectives of action for his eponymous foundation since its inception, with a focus on society, education and culture. In March 2014 the Foundation launched one of its most ambitious projects to date by opening the A. G. Leventis Gallery in Nicosia to house the Foundation's art collections. Through an international programme supporting Greek studies, with the fostering of various educational activities, the systematic granting of scholarships, the ongoing contribution to academic research and the production of scientific publications, the Foundation consistently adheres to A. G Leventis' vision.

[www.leventisfoundation.org](http://www.leventisfoundation.org)

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