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EUROPEAN MUSEUM ACADEMY AWARDS

Finalists for the 2024 Art Museum Award

KMSKA: Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten Antwerpen, Belgium
Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, The Netherlands
Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Muzeul Național de Artă, Timisoara, Romania
Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich, UK

THE ART MUSEUM AWARD goes to the **Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam** – a leading museum for modern and contemporary art and design in The Netherlands with a strong national and international reputation for the depth and quality of its collections and its programmes. Funded by the city of Amsterdam, local politics have always played a large role in its history. Dedicated to enriching lives through modern and contemporary art and design, the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam offers a collection, exhibitions, and educational programs that provide insightful perspectives on today's world, addressing key issues that shape society and individual experiences. In recent years, the permanent collection displays have been re-thought and re-invigorated, moving away from the notion of displaying the 'Icons of Modern Art' to a more dynamic and global approach. Since 2020, efforts to diversify the staff have been introduced, alongside a strong focus on transparency and staff engagement.

The jury members said the museum stands out for its structural commitment to fundamental change and for its efforts to repurpose its collections and activities towards a more just and optimistic world. With intelligent new displays, a lively programme of acquisitions and exhibitions, the museum has embraced more global perspectives and a wider range of voices and narratives in their efforts to engage and be relevant to the widest possible audience.

Finalists for the 2024 DASA Award

Futurium, Berlin, Germany
MO Museum, Vilnius, Lithuania
Buzau County Museum, Buzau, Romania
Provincial Archaeological Museum of Alicante, Spain
Leeds Museums & Galleries, Leeds, United Kingdom

THE DASA AWARD this year goes to the **Provincial Archaeological Museum of Alicante, Spain.**

The museum's broad educational offer includes standard programmes for disabled young people. 'A fairy tale hospital', based at the Doctor Balmis Centre in Alicante is an example of MARQ's outreach activities. In weekly sessions an educational team meets children undergoing treatment and introduces them to the history of the province through talks, workshops, games, storytelling and dramatized visits. In the words of the Deputy of Culture, "The museum is a pioneer in terms of accessibility and social responsibility and with this project we reaffirm our commitment to facilitate access to culture for all sections of Alicante society." Regular educational workshop sessions are held in the region's penitentiary, each with a specific theme. Visitors to the museum and sites by groups of prisoners who meet the necessary requirements at the discretion of the Treatment Board also take place, with security guards in attendance. MARQ +65 aims to highlight the experience of older people, to strengthen their interpersonal relationships and make them a part of the cultural life of their city. Those suffering from memory loss have their own programmes, with suitably adapted workshops.

The judges said: The museum sets an exceptionally high standard of inclusive education. MARQ not only prioritizes its own interests but places great emphasis on being part of the society in which an individual exists. Some of the programmes are unusual and surprising, while the outreach offer is exemplary, as is the preparation of all materials for digital use. This is an outstanding example of a museum which is over 20 years old but has maintained its momentum and educational excellence.

Finalists for the 2024 Luigi Micheletti Award

Museum of Bečarac, Pleternica, Croatia
Carl Nielsen Museum, Odense, Denmark
Hungarian Money Museum & Visitor Center, Budapest, Hungary
Sybir Memorial Museum, Białystok, Poland
İşbank Museum of Paintings-Sculpture, Istanbul, Turkey

THE LUIGI MICHELETTI AWARD goes to **The Carl Nielsen Museum, Odense, Denmark.** With its decision to 'display' the composer's music, together with a small number of personal artefacts, the museum's description of itself as 'surprising and unpredictable' is very apt. The duality in the compositions shows a composer with an understanding of both the complex and the simple – calm and wild, playful and methodical, traditional and modern. The experience throughout the exhibition is playful, triggering curiosity and taking the visitors into the process of creating music and its variety, while making them feel a part of the process. The exhibition starts in a cinema-type room with a 180-degree pixel screen which intensifies, accompanying the music, helping create sensations developing into emotions of joy or sadness. A story is then told to motivate the senses, based on the composer's memory of sounds of his childhood. The nineteen specially designed wooden cabinets have arrows which explain each game, visitors are invited to 'open', 'touch' or 'match the cards', enabling them to absorb more musical information than they realise. Each cabinet has a sensor, so the music is not activated until necessary. Returning to the cinema room, a full orchestral symphony is played, and the visitors realise how much they have learned about the process of composition.

The judges said: This is a new kind of museum devoted to a composer. It achieves its stated goal of using the universal language of music as a tool to educate the visitor, with no intimidating text and no repetition. Each cabinet is similar in design and material, but all differ in their role of making the experience demanding but playful and interesting to the point of making you lose the sense of time. A truly pioneering museum and a worthy winner of the 2024 Luigi Micheletti Award.

A SPECIAL COMMENDATION was awarded to the **Sybir Memorial Museum, Bialystok, Poland**, which the judges said convincingly conveys the history of deportations and related issues from its local community and uses the story to engage visitors, learners and volunteers in the museum. Engaging pieces of the narrative are offered via the website and through an impressive series of publications. The theme covers a wider European area, done with great style and total commitment from the director and staff, and enhances the unfortunately growing importance of the story.

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 European Museum Academy's organisation. www.europeanmuseumacademy.eu.

THE LUIGI MICHELETTI FOUNDATION (Fondazione Biblioteca Archivio Luigi Micheletti) LMF (established in 1981 in Brescia) is a research centre specialising in 20th-century history. Scientific research covers ideologies of the 20th 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 **Industry** and **Labour** – was created, in order to focus on the recovery of productive plants and whole urban areas. www.fondazionemicheletti.eu; www.musilbrescia.it; www.luigimichelettiaward.eu; 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 m², 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

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