

The AWARE prizes 2024

The AWARE prizes were created to reward the work of women¹ artists linked to the French scene, to respond to the lack of visibility in France and abroad, and to highlight their works and the longevity of their careers, beyond all stereotypes. The prizes reflect AWARE's mission to shine a light on women artists of the 18th, 19th and 20th century. In 2024, for the 8th time, two prizes were awarded: the *Nouveau Regard* prize to an artist in the middle of her career was awarded to Laura Huertas Millán, and the Outstanding Merit prize, to an artist with a career spanning over 40 years or more was awarded to Katerina Thomadaki.

¹Woman is understood as a person who, regardless of their gender assigned at birth, identifies as such. Since 2023, the AWARE awards have been open to intersex, non-binary and post-gender artists.



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Laura Huertas Millán, winner of the Nouveau Regard prize

Nominated by Noelia Portela

Laura Huertas Millán is an artist, filmmaker, and writer from Colombia, based in France and Belgium. She holds a PhD from PSL University (SACRe program) developed at the Sensory Ethnography Lab (Harvard University). More than twenty film retrospectives of her work have been held internationally. Her films have been shown in leading world cinema festivals and won prizes at the Locarno Film Festival, FIDMarseille, Doclisboa and Videobrasil. She has had solo exhibitions at the MASP São Paulo, Maison des Arts de Malakoff and Medellín's Modern Art Museum. Her films have also been exhibited and screened at the Centre Pompidou, Jeu de Paume, Guggenheim Museum in NYC, Times Art Berlin and presented in biennials such as the Liverpool, FRONT Triennial, Videobrasil, Videonale & Sharjah Biennial.

Laura Huertas Millán's works challenge and dismantle oppressive narratives through experimental fiction-making: sci-fi, speculative fiction, and lo-fi fantasy with a sharp criticism of anthropology.



Aequador, 2011. Film HD, color, sound, 19' © Laura Huertas Millán



©Klonaris-Thomadaki

Katerina Thomadaki, winner of the Outstanding Merit prize for her work with Maria Klonaris

Nominated by Antoine Idier

Maria Klonaris (1948-2014) and Katerina Thomadaki are media artists of greek origin based in Paris since 1975. They produced films, videos, multi-media installations, performances, photographic pieces, sound and texts. Their work has been largely shown in Europe, North America and Japan. Their installations are ritually structured spaces combining images and sound generated by diverse technologies and including constructed screens, objects, lights. They have published manifestos, interviews and theoretical texts in numerous newspapers, books, magazines (*Libération*, *Cinémaction*, *Revue d'Esthétique*, *Recherche Poétique*, *Visuel-Torino*, *Performance-London*, *Leonardo-U.S.A.*, etc). Leading figures of the French experimental film scene since the late 70's, they introduce the concept of "cinéma corporel" (cinema of the body) and produce subversive works on body, female and androgynous identity, sexuality and the unconscious.

Klonaris' and Thomadaki's work develops a transcultural reflexion on body, memory, ritual, dream, mythological figures as archetypes (Astarti, Electra, Persephone, The Hermaphrodite, the Angel) and identity as the site of destabilized assumptions. Parallely it is concerned with crossing technologies and media and spatialising images and sounds. Since 1976 they have been working on body as language. The first period of their production concentrated on self portraiture and identity. In 1977 they published the "Manifesto for a Radical Femininity, for Another Cinema", where they defined radical femininity as a "double drive - both female and male". This concept led them to the synthetic gender figure of the hermaphrodite, which they explored through the Louvre hellenistic sculpture of the Sleeping Hermaphrodite and through Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*. In 1985 they started creating *The Angel Cycle*, an on-going vast media mutation piece, based on the medical photograph of an intersexual subject.

Apart from their artistic production, Maria Klonaris and Katerina Thomadaki curate film programs and exhibitions, lecture and teach seminars in France and abroad. Since 1982 they collaborate with the National Radio broadcast "Atelier de Création Radiophonique" - France Culture. In 1985 they create A.S.T.A.R.T.I. for Audiovisual Art, an interdisciplinary organization crossing technologies, theories, and artistic practices. In 1990 they curate the large scale international conference "Film / Video / Computer Art" and edit the catalogue *Technologies et imaginaires* published by Dis Voir, Paris. In 1994 they curate the second international conference "Film / Video / Computer Art" and in 1998 the third one, and edit respectively *Mutations de l'image* and *Pour une Ecologie des media*, both published by A.S.T.A.R.T.I., Paris.



Unheimlich III : Les Mères, performance/installation, commissioned by the Centre Pompidou, museum cinema, 1981 ©Klonaris/Thomadaki



About the prizes

Since their inception in 2016, the AWARE Prizes have focused renewed attention on the careers of women artists and worked towards greater recognition of their work. In 2024, for the 8th edition, two prizes will be awarded: the Nouveau Regard prize, awarded to an artist in the middle of her career, and the Outstanding Merit prize, awarded to an artist with more than 40 years' career behind her.

To reward the work of women artists on the French scene, to respond to the lack of visibility in France and abroad, and to highlight their works and the longevity of their careers, beyond stereotypes: these are the objectives of the AWARE prizes. Through these prizes, AWARE is committed to supporting the laureates over the long term, through the creation of publications, exhibitions and offering production assistance.

The AWARE prizes for women artists were created in 2016 to tackle the inequality in contemporary art awards and prizes. While the situation has improved in recent years, particularly for emerging artists who now benefit from more support, promotion and visibility, women artists are still largely underrepresented among prizewinners. Conscious of the changing needs of women artists, AWARE reimagined one of its prizes in 2022. The emerging artists' prize evolved to reward mid-career artists, who are currently less supported by existing prizes and the art world in general. More than just a symbolic recognition of their career paths, the Nouveau Regard prize is an unprecedented opportunity to open new horizons for the development of the artists' careers and to promote their work internationally.

Thanks to the support of CHANEL, the winner of the Nouveau Regard prize benefits from a residency organised in partnership with the Villa Albertine, a French cultural institution in the United States that hosts 60 residencies throughout the United States each year, and the A.I.R. Gallery in New York. The A.I.R. Gallery, a historic feminist venue that dedicated an exhibition to French women artists curated by Aline Daller in 1976, will accompany the laureate throughout her stay in the United States by organising visits and meetings with curators, art critics, curators, gallery owners and journalists. Once the artist returns to France, AWARE will contact French art centres to co-produce a personal exhibition of the artist's work in France. As part of its partnership with AWARE, the Cnap (Centre national des arts plastiques) will offer the winner of the Nouveau Regard prize the acquisition of works that will enter its collection.

The winner of the Outstanding Merit prize 2024 will receive a €10,000 grant, thanks to the continued support of the French Ministry of Culture. In partnership with Manuella Éditions, AWARE will publish a book-length interview with the artist, documenting her contribution to the history of art of the twentieth century and allowing her to reflect on her career in her own words.

Once again in 2024, four commissioners - active professionals from the world of culture: art historians, critics, curators - have each shortlisted two artists, nominated respectively for the Nouveau Regard prize (mid-career artists) and the Outstanding Merit prize (women artists with careers of 40 years or more). The commissioners - Simona Dvorák, Antoine Idier, Noelia Portela et Olivier Zeitoun - presented and defended the artists' work before a jury of six major figures from the art world chaired, in 2024, by Béatrice Salmon (Director of the Cnap, Centre national des arts plastiques) and composed of : Camille Morineau (co-founder and Director of Research at AWARE), Bénédicte Alliot (Director of the Cité internationale des arts), Marc Bembekoff (Director of the Galerie - contemporary art center of national interest in Noisy-Le-Sec), Florence Ostende (art historian and curator at the Barbican Art Gallery) and Marie-Hélène Pereira (curator of performative practices at Haus der Kulturen der Welt).

The winners of the AWARE prizes (*Nouveau Regard* prize and Outstanding Merit prize) were announced on 7 March 2024.

About AWARE

AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions is a non-profit association dedicated to shining a light on women and non-binary artists of the 18th, 19th and 20th century. Since its creation in 2014, AWARE has worked to make thousands of artists visible by creating many different types of innovative content, all available for free in both English and French on the AWARE website, as well as through organising and participating in academic and non-academic events (symposiums, conferences, curation of art fairs). AWARE also supports contemporary artists by awarding two contemporary art prizes every year.

About Camille Morineau

Camille Morineau, heritage curator and art historian specialising in women artists is the co-founder and Director of Research at AWARE (Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions). She is President of the Board of Directors of the École du Louvre and was promoted to Chevalière de la Légion d'honneur in January 2020.

With degrees from both the École normale supérieure and the Institut national du patrimoine, Camille Morineau has worked for twenty years in public cultural institutions in France, including ten years as curator of the contemporary collections at the Musée national d'Art moderne - Centre Georges-Pompidou (Paris). She curated numerous exhibitions there, including *Yves Klein* (2006), *Gerhard Richter* (2012), *Roy Lichtenstein* (2013), and the hanging *elles@centrepompidou* (2009-2011) dedicated solely to female artists from the collections of the Musée national d'Art moderne. She has also curated several exhibitions as an independent curator, including *Niki de Saint Phalle* at RMN - Grand Palais (Paris, 2014) and *Guggenheim Bilbao* (2016), *Ceramix: From Rodin to Schütte*, about the use of ceramics by artists of the 20th and 21st century, at Bonnefanten Museum Maastricht (2015) and *La maison rouge*, Fondation Antoine de Galbert, with Manufacture de Sèvres (Paris, 2016). From 2016 to October 2019, she was the director of exhibitions and collections at Monnaie de Paris, where she curated the following exhibitions: *Women House*, also shown at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington (2017-2018), *Floor-naments*, an exhibition marking the 40th anniversary of the Centre Pompidou (2017), *Subodh Gupta* (2018), *Thomas Schütte* (2019), *Kiki Smith* (2019-2020).

In 2021, Camille Morineau curated the first French retrospective of Françoise Pétrovitch at the Fonds Hélène & Édouard Leclerc in Landerneau, Brittany. In 2022, she co-curated *Pionnières* with Lucia Pesapane at the musée du Luxembourg in Paris.



CHANEL

Villa Albertine 

Press contact

Agence Dezarts

Manon Vaillant : +33 (0)6 47 66 86 07

Noalig Tanguy : +33 (0)6 70 56 63 24

agence@dezarts.fr

A.I.R.

 Centre national
des arts plastiques

DCA

Practical information

AWARE

Villa Vassilieff

21 avenue du Maine

75015 Paris, France

awarewomenartists.com

+33 (0)1 55 26 90 29

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Social media

Twitter, Facebook et Instagram

@AwareWomenArt