

## Press Release

Basel, 18.05.2022

### **The Pax Art Awards 2022 - Fifth Award Ceremony at HEK**

Press Embargo until 16.06.2022, 1 pm

**On Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 at 19:00, the Pax Art Awards will be presented for the fifth time at HEK (House of Electronic Arts) in Basel. With these awards, the Art Foundation Pax, in collaboration with the HEK, honors and promotes media-specific practices of Swiss artists whose works use or reflect on media technologies.**

**An exclusive press tour in the presence of the artists and the jury will take place at 6:00 p.m. prior to the announcement of the prize winners on the 16<sup>th</sup> June.**

**This year's main prize of the Pax Art Awards goes to Pe Lang** (\*1974). The main prize awards CHF 30,000 to an established artist who has had a lasting influence on the Swiss media art scene in recent years and will continue to do so in the future. With CHF 15,000 of the prize money, The Art Foundation Pax, will support the artist in the production of a new work. The remaining CHF 15,000 will be used to acquire an existing work from the artist for the Art Foundation Pax collection.

**Two further prizes will be awarded to young, emerging media artists. Johanna Bruckner** (\*1984) and **Jennifer Merlyn Scherler** (\*1996) will each receive CHF 15,000 which includes the prize money and the acquisition of an existing work.

#### **Pe Lang** (Wald, Canton Zurich)

Pe Lang, who attracted attention in the 1990s with sound projects before focusing on visual art, creates arrangements with his works that stem from his interest in physical laws. In minimalist, kinetic installations, he questions seemingly simple, everyday machines, materials and matter. With this award, the jury acknowledges the consistent and independent development of his artistic oeuvre, which now spans three decades. His works are characterised by a clear composition in which nothing is hidden. In doing so, he constantly elicits new questions about shapes, colour, space, rhythm and sound. Through the discreet whirring of motors, the sensorial rustling of paper, the flashing of coloured stripes and the microscopic rippling of silicon dots, his works develop a magic and poetry that is capable of enchanting the viewer.

#### **Johanna Bruckner** (Zurich)

Johanna Bruckner's artistic work is characterised by a kaleidoscopic complexity of moving images, sound, narration, performance as well as an elaborate theoretical-poetic substructure. The visual level of her video works take the viewer on a microscopic journey into the bloodstream of an organism. In this cosmos, the boundaries of human, non-human and technical bodies are fluid and merge into one another. These powerful, at times almost overwhelming visual and soundscapes develop a hypnotic pull. The jury was impressed by how Bruckner negotiates current discourses on identity politics, feminism, queer theory, posthumanism and the capitalisation of corporeality and intimacy for expression in her works in a visually impressive way.

**Jennifer Merlyn Scherler** (Basel)

Jennifer Merlyn Scherler's work explores matters of intimacy, identity, gender, self-representation and nostalgia through video, performance, sound, photography and poetic textual works. Her work references internet culture and encompasses various media and formats, ranging from lecture performances to videos and installations. In her visual language she uses fantasy worlds, pop cultural references, found footage and content from the internet, which she combines with personal reflections and text fragments. She creates compelling narratives about contemporary internet culture that captivate the viewer. The jury was captivated by the way Scherler tackles difficult social issues in her work, achieving content depth as well as a compelling aesthetic and form.

The **Art Foundation Pax** is a foundation for the promotion of digital and visual arts, financially supported by Pax. It was launched at the end of 2017 and presented the first Pax Art Awards in June 2018. Pax is dedicated to funding due to its cooperative origins. The Pax Art Foundation continues Pax's long-standing art collecting activities and makes a significant contribution to corporate and social culture. The focus is on digital art, which has generated new impulses since the 1990s. The Art Foundation Pax is endowed with a sum that will ensure the foundation's activities for the next ten years.

**HEK (House of Electronic Arts)** in Basel is Switzerland's national centre of competence for all art forms that express and reflect themselves through new technologies and media. With its interdisciplinary orientation, HEK enables a broad public to gain insights into art productions of different genres in the confrontation of art, media and technology. In a diverse programme of exhibitions, concerts, performances and educational activities, HEK addresses current social themes and issues as well as technological-aesthetic developments. In addition to event and exhibition activities, HEK is concerned with collection methodology and the preservation of digital art.

**Information:**

HEK (House of Electronic Arts).  
Freilager-Platz 9, 4142 Münchenstein/Basel

Press tour: Thursday, 16.06.2022, 18:00 hrs

Extended opening hours during Art Basel: 13-19.06.2022, 10:00-20:00 hrs.

Opening hours: Wed-Sun, 12:00-18:00 hrs

Admission: 9 / 6 CHF (reduced), Wed-Fri 12:00-13:00 Happy Hour (free admission to the exhibition).

Public guided tours: Every Sunday at 15:00 in German.

For more information: [www.hek.ch](http://www.hek.ch)

**Press contact:**

Ugo Pecoraio  
[ugo.pecoraio@hek.ch](mailto:ugo.pecoraio@hek.ch)  
+41/(0)61 331 58 41