



UBERMORGEN, The Next Biennial Should Be Curated by a Machine, <https://whitney.org/exhibitions/the-next-biennial>, Copyleft UBERMORGEN, 2021, Courtesy of the artists

Swiss Media Art Pax Art Awards 2023 - Award Ceremony at HEK

21.09.2023, 7pm

Press Embargo until 21.09.2023, 1pm

On Thursday the **21. September at 7pm** the **Pax Art Awards** will be presented for the sixth 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.

This year's main prize of the Pax Art Awards goes to the artist duo **UBERMORGEN** (*1995). Two additional prizes are awarded to young, up-and-coming media artists, this year this is awarded to **Johanna Müller** (*1990) and **Giulia Essyad** (*1992).

This year's main prize of the Pax Art Awards goes to the artist duo **UBERMORGEN** (Luzius Bernhard and Liz Katlein auch bekannt als lizvlx). This award honours the duo who formed in 1995, with CHF 30,000 in prize money, to recognise their lasting influence on the Swiss and international media art scene both in recent years and in the future.

UBERMORGEN belong to the first net artists and media hackers whose work is characterised by interventions in the political, economic and social spheres with actions that have a provocative and polarising character. For instance, they created a website where US citizens could auction their votes for the presidential elections, published a compilation of rock songs allegedly used to torture prisoners of war, and attacked IT giants such as Google, Amazon and eBay by exploiting and subverting their own economic mechanisms. With CHF 15,000 of the prize money, The Art Foundation Pax, will support **UBERMORGEN** 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.

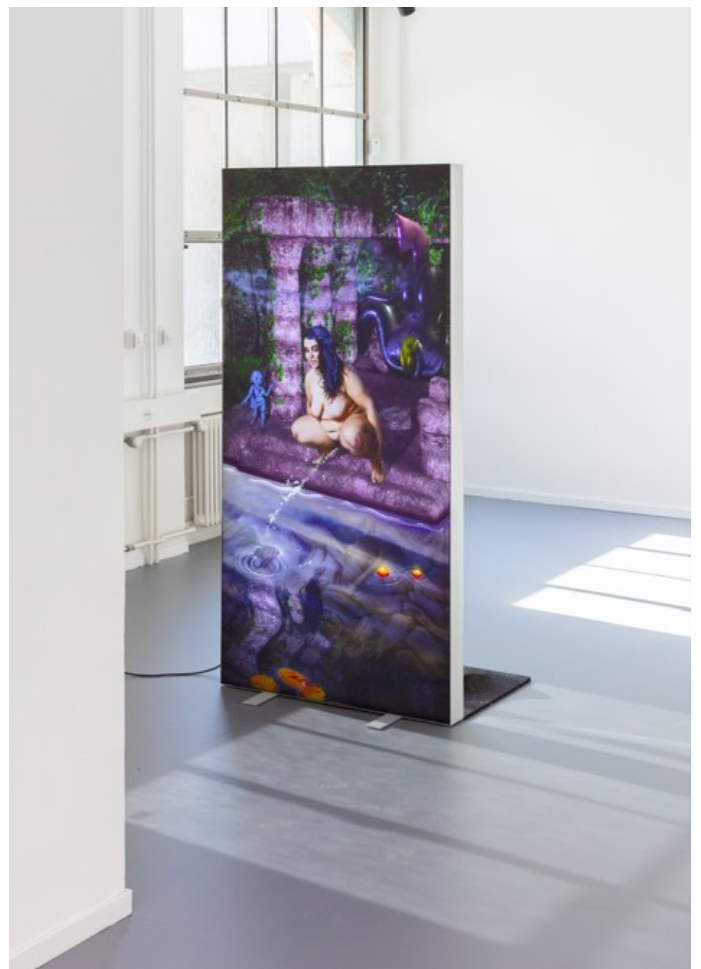
Two additional prizes are awarded to young, up-and-coming media artists. This year

Johanna Müller (*1990) and **Giulia Essyad** (*1992) will each receive CHF 15,000, which includes prize money and the acquisition costs of a work.

Johanna Müller produces videos, installations and digital collages that investigate people's behavior in virtual and social online spaces. The stories Müller tells arise from the observation of everyday phenomena, which are reconstructed through the interweaving of real facts with fantasies, hypotheses, and memories. **Giulia Essyad** is a visual artist and performer who explores the representation of the human body, particularly in works of popular culture such as the films „Avatar“, „Charlie and the Chocolate Factory“ or Picasso's Blue Period figures. The colour blue applied to the body as a symbol of alienation and otherness is a recurring element in Essyad's works, as is the motif of the ‚Blueberry Inflation‘, a transformation that the character Violet Beauregarde undergoes in Willy Wonka's The Chocolate Factory, which has generated a worldwide fanbase.



Johanna Müller, Who the f*** is Karen? (don't show feelings), 2022, Filmplakat, Courtesy of the artist



Giulia Essyad, Preserve and Cherish this pale blue Bot, the only friend I ever had, -Alternate Take-, LiveInYourHead, 2021, Foto: Michel Giesbrecht, Courtesy of HEAD and Michel Giesbrecht



UBERMORGEN, NO-LIMIT, <https://www.no-limit.org>, Copyleft UBERMORGEN, 2013, Foto: Nils Klinger

„The digitalisation of our society or digitality has increased rapidly. The arts have always had these developments on their radar. After all, it is a seismograph of our contemporary world. For a young generation of artists, digital production methods and distribution channels are naturally part of their repertoire. Looking back, it becomes clear how broadly diversified the prizewinners' approach to media technologies is," sums up Nicolas Bopp, President of the Board of Trustees of the Art Foundation Pax, and goes on to explain: „With the Pax Awards, over the past six years we have drawn attention to digital art in a purposeful and effective way and will continue to do so: We are proud of all the outstanding award winners and their incredibly diverse and unique works“.

Prior to the public announcement of the award winners on **21 September 2023**, an **exclusive press tour will take place at 18:00** with the artists and the jury in attendance. The jury for this year's edition consists of: **Sabine Himmelsbach**, Director HEK (House of Electronic Arts), **Luc Meier**, Director La Becque, **Marlene Wenger**, Curatorial Assistant Kunstmuseum Bern and **Carmen Weisskopf**, artist and member of the artist group !Mediengruppe Bitnik, **Nicolas Bopp**, President of the Board of Trustees of the Art Foundation Pax, and **Fausto De Lorenzo**, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Art Foundation Pax.



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, 21.09.2022, 6pm

Opening Hours:

Wed-Sun, 12:00-18:00

Entry: 12 / 8 CHF (reduced),

Happy Hour: Wed-Fri 12:00-13:00 Uhr, free exhibition entry

Public Guided Tour: Every Sunday at 15:00

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For more information visit: www.hek.ch