



Frédérique Albert-Bordenave



Boris Kollár

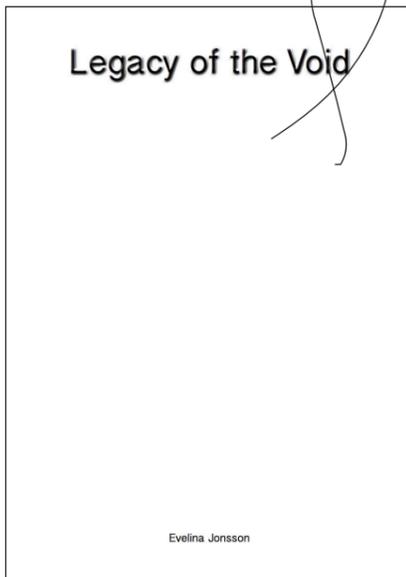


Anouk Beckers



Krisztina Czika

Evelina Jonsson

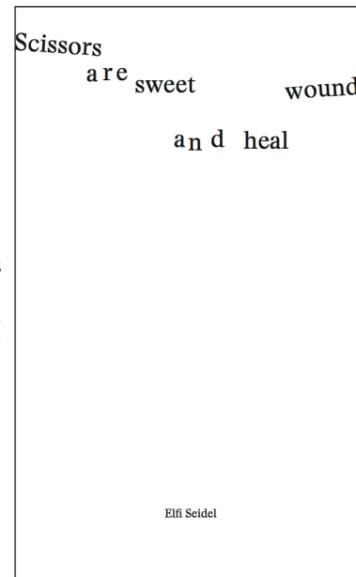


Evelina Jonsson



Elisabeth Rafstect

Eli Seidel



Eli Seidel



Giorgos Tsiongas

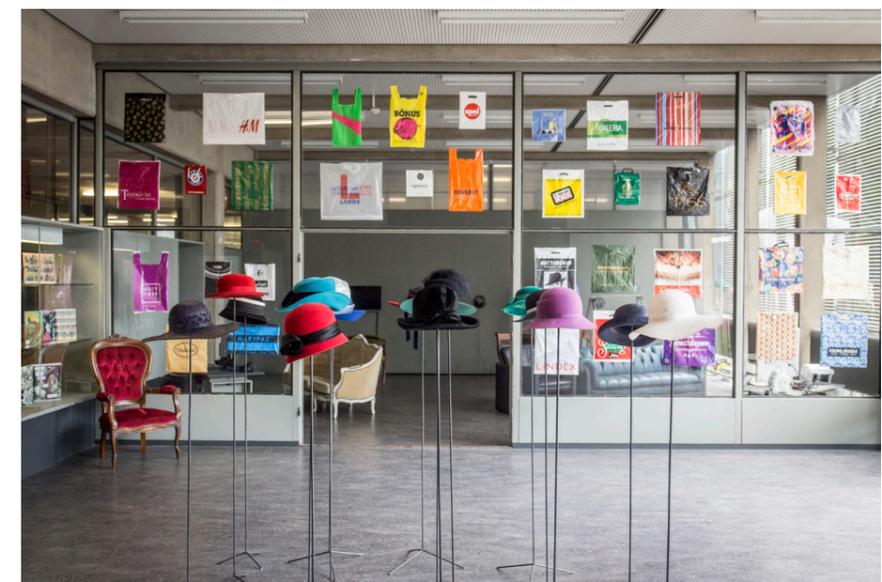
Gerrit Rietveld Academie
Graduation Show 2017
5 - 9 July 2017



Sophie Serber



Finn Godwin



Anton Lyngdal

APPLIED ARTS

The jury of Applied Arts this year consists of artist Batia Suter en Angelique Spaninks, director of MU Artspace and STRP Biennale.

The jury wants to compliment those departments in which students proved to be involved with each other's work. While in some departments students couldn't tell much about the projects of their fellow students. In departments like Fashion, Jewellery, and DOGtime, every student could give good explanations of the works of others that weren't present at that moment, showing a genuine spirit of collaboration. The jury sees this as something to cherish for the years to come. Your classmates are often the ones that will push you further.

Before going to the prizes, the jury wants to briefly give honorable mentionings to the following students. Sanne Bax from TXT made an installation in which she performed with the textiles she used, thereby bringing a dead material to life. Steven Lenoir from Graphic Design made a very refined work in which he applies a beautiful way of zooming in, creating an experiment without losing control.

Nominees

Frédérique Albert-Bordenave, Inter-Architecture

Frédérique Albert-Bordenave from Inter-Architecture uses a robot arm that shines a light on a small scale architectonic model, letting the light dance around freely. The shadows that the model casts thereby underline the architecture of the space itself. While a robotic arm can sometimes appear like a tacky gimmick, in the work of Frédérique its presence fits like a glove. It almost has the natural presence of an animal, that intuitively knows what to do. While the arm is literally standing in the shadow, it manages to create an organic choreography in which space is caught. Although we experience architecture as something solid, Frédérique manages to turn it into something featherlight. The jury wants to mention that the work managed to turn a relatively ugly exhibition space into a place full of beautiful details and wonder. They are looking forward to see its effects in a bigger or maybe industrial site.

Anouk Beckers, Fashion and TXT (Textile)

Anouk Beckers from TXT and Fashion has a very self-aware way of working, putting fragments of clothing together to make new pieces. She built a photobooth in which she takes the clothing of visitors, merging them with her own work, which were directly published on the internet. By creating this live setting she triggers awareness about the way we dress, creating an individual reflection on the clothing of every visitor. But the fragments she made are also highly interesting themselves, provoking the desire to combine and play with all of them, in a variety of possibilities. Out of these combinations sometimes suddenly a stylish, über-hip or classic appearance arises. The work was strongly crystallized, giving her the courage to do something that might seem improvised and odd at first sight.

Boris Kollár, Fashion

Boris Kollár from the Fashion department made works out of one piece of fabric and one thread only, in the most precise way, shaping pieces of clothing that are exciting, while at the same time being very consequent. Boris never seems to bother about being stylish, creating references to history and nomadism, thereby generating his own timeless atmosphere. The jury imagined the works as having respect for the dream of the fabric itself. He developed his own language, encouraging you to find out about every detail once you are able of understanding it. However, the jury felt that Boris could improve the way he presented his works. The help of other professionals might be needed to present his unique universe in a more accessible way.

Winner Frédérique Albert-Bordenave

THESIS

This year the jury consisted of Ed van Hinte, design critic, Jasper Coppes, visual artist and writer, and Jeroen Boomgaard, Professor of art and public space here at Rietveld Academie. The jury was very eager to read the theses this year because they were so beautifully designed and despite the tendency of some students to forget to put their names on them. They noticed that there were two trending topics this year, namely perception and identity. This year the jury concluded that the theses weren't only well-written, but also fascinating.

Nominees

Krisztina Czika, designLAB

First of all, the jury was impressed by this beautifully designed pink leather book entitled What The Hair Are We Doing? As you may have guessed this thesis is all about hair. The book even carries one hair subtly inserted within the book. In her thesis Krisztina neatly explores hair in all its facets. The jury therefore found her thesis an example of how one minor subject can be completely researched and set its own agenda.

Evelina Jonsson, Fine Arts

The thesis Legacy of the Void took the jury back to the post-modern era, but they didn't mind. On the contrary, the jury thought Evelina's thesis has an urgency, addressing the ever present boundary between virtual and physical reality, and our incapacity to break it. Furthermore, the thesis is very well-written and inspired the jury.

Jury Report GRA AWARDS 2017

Elisabeth Rafstedt, Graphic Design

In the thesis The Company We Keep Elisabeth writes about feminist printing practices from the 70's. The jury was impressed by the thoroughness with which Elisabeth researched this underexposed history, and by the way she places herself in this tradition as a graphic designer. Therefore, Elisabeth's thesis is a very good example of practicing what you preach.

Elfi Seidel, VAV - moving image

The thesis Scissors are Sweet and Heal Wouds shows Elfi's fascination for language that takes a visual form. She writes about it in an inspiring way, making this thesis a wonderful read. The jury also found her thesis well-reasoned. In this thesis Elfi really shows that she can stick to a line of thought, while also exploring original examples to support her argumentation.

Giorgos Tsiongas, Fine Arts

The jury found Giorgos thesis titled [SIC] an original observation of the classical Greek figure Narcissus. He takes the reader from the flower to the queer, and from the sorcerer to the grasshopper, to finally end up at the Angel of Transgression. Giorgos thesis' playfully experiments with finding your own voice while thinking out loud.

Winner Evelina Jonsson

The jury was really impressed by the new ideas that Evelina presents in her thesis. It leads the way beyond the usual ideas that internet delving delivers, making her approach to this urgent subject original and wayward.

AUTONOMOUS ARTS

The jury for Autonomous Arts this year consists of independent curator Melanie Bühler and Niels van Tomme, director of de Appel arts centre.

The jury felt that some students made works that are safe, in the sense that they give no possibility to fail, taking already existing aesthetics to match certain expectations. This makes thoughtfulness win from doing something daring that might eventually be perceived as weird. The three nominees show a counterexample to this, presenting the intrinsic approach that truly surprises.

The jury wants to give an honorable mention to Roman Ermolaev who made an installation in which he deconstructs the Dutch Golden Age by, among others, erasing 'Delfts blauw' vases. While the jury liked his courage to tackle a bigger theme, they also felt his installation was just too much, kill your darlings! A second honorable mention is for Linnea Langfjord Kristensen who did an interesting research about pauses in language and the meaning they encapsulate. She made works that seemed to be very well thought of.

Nominees

Finn Godwin, Fine Arts

Finn's little collages do not imply a big gesture but engage in playful ways with the big topic of visualizing data. His work is modest and reserved and seems simple, but in its diversity it is comprehensive. The staged anecdotes create a friction between the work and the viewer, reminding us in a humourous way that every human being is somewhat peculiar. With a political series and Dada spirited collages he shows historical consciousness. He knows how to make a point and shows bravery by using almost banal materials. The jury wonders if this is the best way of presenting the works. Could they either benefit from more space or should they be in a book because of the narrative aspect?

Anton Lyngdal, The Large Glass

With Anton the jury wants to nominate someone who is completely distinct. He brought his entire family to his work and presents them among the things they collect. The two spaces where he exhibits are activated by a character with the name Mr.Awkward, a character that convinced the jury for being daring and personal. While many artists seem to focus on presenting themselves as professionals, Anton isn't scared to choose his own path. He uses some tendencies from the digital realm, without copying their easy aesthetics. The fact that he graduates at The Large Glass department with only one strip of glass holding his baseball cards, shows that he used his time at the Rietveld in the most inimitable way. The way he plays with authenticity and irony is intriguing. While Anton's mother was fitting hats in one corner of the room and Anton's father commenting from the other, the jury left with a strange feeling of unease.

Sophie Serber, Fine Arts

The jury was directly convinced by the power and completeness of Sophies work. One jury member noted that it could be interpreted as a fucked up version of the Rothko Chapel full of dirt. The naive image language of the tapestries is based on coloring books. Peanut butter is spread on the windows. Meanwhile, a story her mother once wrote for her, is read in a distorted voice. A muggy atmosphere seems to visualize an unprocessed childhood. Taking her feelings extremely serious, Sophie manages to express them in a controlled and subtle way. The intensity of her persona suggests an intuitive way of working, closed from outside perspectives, but it is spot on. For this reason, the jury wouldn't know whether they should advise Sophie to broaden her horizon, or to keep her focus exactly as it is.

Winner Sophie Serber