



JURY REPORT JAN ROËDE AWARD 2022

On 13 June 2014 it was 100 years since the birth of Den Haag visual artist, Jan Roëde (1914-2007). To mark the occasion the board of the Jan Roëde Foundation, founded to manage his artistic legacy, established in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Art, the Jan Roëde Award, an annual incentive prize for a graduating artist from the Department of Fine Arts at the KABK.

As a token of recognition, the prize is intended to encourage the laureate to further develop their talents after graduation from the Academy.

The jury for the Jan Roëde Award 2022 consisted of Olga van Hulsen, Louw van Sinderen, Dick Stapel, Huub van Wersch (all members of the Foundation Board) and Marlou Fernanda (visual artist). The jury was guided by KABK tutor and visual artist, Pim Voorneman.

On the 1st of July 2022 the jury deliberated over the works from students from the Fine Arts department, who presented their artworks in the Graduation exhibition at the KABK this year. The jury was deeply impressed by the quality, diversity and eloquence of many of the projects shown during the exhibition, so it was not an easy final decision to make. The artist unanimously chosen by the jury to receive the Jan Roëde Award 2022 is:

Alexander Koch

Alexander Koch is, much like the prize's namesake Jan Roëde, a painter pur sang. Entering the space in which he exposes his presentation "Fragile Fictions", the spectator is immediately convinced of the painterly quality of the works presented. But what is it that comes to us? Aesthetically compelling and conceptually convincing as those paintings are, they leave the viewer in the dark about their meaning, an uncertainty and ambiguity underlined by the indecipherable handwriting on one of the two large paintings in the series. Are we witnessing a visual investigation into fragility? Is this why they withhold meaning and are primarily evoking of emotion? An artist can choose to fill his canvas with a wealth of meaning and expressiveness. In the realm of fragility however filling is killing and restraint fits. No matter how skillfully the brush can have its say and leave its marks on the canvas, hesitations are left as traces of respect for what makes beauty incomprehensible. In the sculpture presented in the center of the installation, these hesitations are presented as obstacles that prevent

menacing violent machines from the gentle beauty of a daisy. In the paintings on the walls the hesitations are depicted in different ways: as undefined landscapes, absence of gravity, open spaces, strange encounters between the natural and the mechanical, diffused horizons. Different as they are, all paintings are clearly made by the same skillful hand. Abstaining from detailed elaboration, the expressiveness of what only can be grasped by sketching or outlining, gives space to emptiness. Certainly, there is not one language that succeeds in making 'claire et distincte' what is presented here. Layers of different visual languages are used by Alexander Koch to prevent the viewer to get stuck in understanding that which cannot be understood or even touched.

As is clear, Alexander Koch is a painter pur sang, a painter with guts, who skillfully investigates fragility without any coquetry. The strokes of his brush and the use of colors and paint are convincingly powerful and firm.

With his presentation "Fragile Fiction" Alexander Koch convinced the jury of his talent, his guts and his craftsmanship. It is our great pleasure to declare him the winner of the Jan Roëde Award 2022.

On behalf of the jury of the Jan Roëde Prize,

Huub van Wersch,
Chairman of the jury

The Hague, 5 July 2022

The Jan Roëde Award 2022 consists of a donation of support to the artistic practice of the laureate, to a maximum sum of €3.000. This is intended to encourage the further artistic development of the artist after their graduation. The conditions of this prize are that the Jan Roëde Foundation asks the laureate to submit a proposal for how they will use this stipend, after which the prize can be spent on the next step in their career as an artist.

The recipient of the Jan Roëde award will – in consultation with the Jan Roëde Foundation – be featured and presented on the foundations website (www.janroede.nl).



Alexander Koch nadat hij uit handen van Regina Möller de prijs in ontvangst heeft genomen.



v.l.n.r. Dick Stapel, Huub van Wersch, Alexander Koch, Pim Voorneman en Olga van Hulsen



twee schilderijen van Alexander Koch uit zijn presentatie 'Fragile Fictions'