

Van Lanschot Kempen Art Prize jury report

The jury of the Van Lanschot Kempen Art Prize has granted the 2018 award to Mark Manders.

During a thorough selection the jury was most impressed by the quality and originality of the body of work of Mark Manders. His individual works are conceptually intriguing and aesthetically attractive, but more importantly each and every individual artwork forms part of a bigger 'Gesamtkunstwerk', as Manders continuously works on and expands the notion of his 'Self-Portrait as a Building'.

Ever since 1986, his work resembles a fictional building, divided into separate rooms and levels, of which the size and shape can never exactly be determined. Potential shifts and extensions constantly threaten the cohesion of the ever-expanding self-portrait. Manders works toward one big overarching moment that will bring together all his works, continuously interconnected and in dialogue with each other. There is no beginning or end¹.

The realization that life is taking its course, even without you, is an intense human experience; it shows the finiteness of personality. Mark Manders has inhabited his self-portrait since 1986. This building can expand or shrink at any moment. In this building all words created by mankind are on hand. The building arises, like words, out of interaction with life and things. The thoughts that surround him in his building are, materialized or not, always important and never gratuitous.²

The artist once remarked about this: "I was extremely fascinated then by how humanity had arrived at the human world through innumerable decisions and how the human body related to this. I wanted to add a self-portrait to this – not a personal self-portrait in the literal sense, but more the idea of a self-portrait, the idea of a construction, a fictional self-portrait. A construction found outside the body, like shoes. I still believe that art is the language to work in. It's ultimately closer than science."³

"My work is an ode to the fictional, 'as if' way of thinking. I believe it's important that people deal with fiction as if it were reality, despite the understanding that it's fiction. The fictional element in my Self-portrait as a Building [...] serves as a pole vault, which, upon my release, propels me forward into new territory. It's not an attempt to escape reality; it's a part of reality."²

Mander's work triggers the viewer to adopt a new perspective on reality, and his/her position in (the evolution of) society at large.

¹ http://www.zeno-x.com/artists/MM/mark_manders_bio.html

² <http://www.markmanders.org/texts/english/the-absence-of-mark-manders/>

³ <http://www.markmanders.org/texts/english/reduced-rooms-with-changing-arrest-reduced-to-88/>

Mark Manders, born 1968 in Volkel (NL), lives and works in Ronse (BE). He won the Prix de Rome in 1992 and represented the Netherlands in the 55th Biennial of Venice in 2013. His work is highly acclaimed internationally and is part of many prestigious collections, including the Museum of Modern Art MOMA, New York, MoCA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, S.M.A.K. Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Ghent and the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven.

About Van Lanschot Kempfen

Ever since its foundation in 1737 Van Lanschot Kempfen has been committed to doing business with respect for the world around us and with an eye for future generations. We believe that wealth is more than money. Van Lanschot Kempfen is also a partner who listens and (pro) actively helps to get more out of personal assets in every aspect. This in relation to everyone's dreams, choices, wishes and views and his personal and social goals. A bank that cares and shows that investments can contribute to a better world.

About the Van Lanschot Kempfen Art Prize

Art and culture are part of the DNA of Van Lanschot Kempfen. The support of art, culture, artists and museums has been the way for us to contribute to the preservation and building of our cultural heritage. A cultural heritage where craftsmanship and mastery are self-evident. Therefore we annually hand out the Van Lanschot Kempfen Art Prize to a mid-career artist working in the Benelux. Since the edition of 2018 a jury nominates candidates and selects the winner each year. The jury consists of:

- Mrs I. de Bruin
- Mr J. van Caldenborgh
- Mr J.C. Mosconi
- Mr A. Rüger

The Van Lanschot Kempfen Art Prize (formerly the J.C van Lanschot prize) was first awarded in 1992. The winning artist in 2018 is rewarded with:

- prize money of €25,000
- to produce a catalog of the body of work
- a temporary exhibition