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Sarah Margnetti, winner of the Manor Vaud Culture Prize 2022

Photo: Valérianne Poidevin

The jury of the Manor Vaud Culture Prize has awarded its 2022 prize to Sarah Margnetti (born in 1983 in Monthey; lives and works in Brussels). The artist convinced the jury with the quality of her politically committed pictorial work and great virtuosity.

A master of trompe-l'oeil painting, Sarah Margnetti has developed a pictorial style that combines optical illusions and abstract motifs. She employs this style mainly in monumental wall paintings and occasionally on canvas as well. The motifs enlisted in her works represent fragments of mostly female bodies whose function is reappropriated at times (an ear becoming a body, for instance, or a body a brain, etc.) or simply repeated. They spring from or melt into architectural elements or furnishings borrowed from the theater world (curtains, balustrades, seats, and so on). And among the sensory organs, the ear is a recurring motif. It can be seen disappearing into the wood knots of a trompe-l'oeil décor or extending a fireplace's ornamentation, morphing into an artist's palette, or taking the place of the eyes in a face. The artist's practice seems to emphasize listening rather than speech or

vision, playing with or undermining the traditional motifs of art history, that of the female body in particular.

As part of the Manor Vaud Culture Prize 2022, Sarah Margnetti will put together a show for the Espace Projet of the Musée cantonal des Beaux-Arts of Lausanne in the fall of 2022. The show will also have an accompanying publication.

Biography
Sarah Margnetti holds a Bachelor of Visual Arts from the École cantonale d'art of Lausanne / ECAL (2005-2009) and a Master's in Visual Arts HES-SO, Work. Master from the Geneva University of Art and Design / HEAD (2013-2015). She also completed a technical training course at the Van der Kelen-Logelain Institute in Brussels, one of the first schools dedicated to the study of decorative painting.

The Manor Culture Prize
Founded in 1982 to promote young Swiss talent, the Manor Culture Prize is awarded every two years by a jury (for the Manor Vaud Culture Prize, MCBA creates a shortlist of artists). Coming at a critical time in the career of an emerging artist, the prize makes it possible to give the winner's work a welcome and possibly decisive boost. In this way the Manor Vaud Culture Prize helps to promote the contemporary art scene in the Vaud region.

The jury of the Manor Vaud Culture Prize 2022
Aloïs Godinat, artist, Lausanne; Claire Hoffmann, curator, Centre culturel suisse, Paris; Elise Lammer, freelance curator, Basel; Pierre André Maus, Maus Frères SA Chantal Prod'Hom, director of mudac – Musée de design et d'arts appliqués contemporains, Lausanne

Exhibition curator
Nicole Schweizer, contemporary
art curator, MCBA

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