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# BALTIC

## **BALTIC ARTISTS' AWARD 2019** **AARON HUGHES - INGRID POLLARD - KANG JUNGSUCK**



Aaron Hughes



Ingrid Pollard



Kang Jungsuck

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art is delighted to announce the second iteration of the BALTIC Artists' Award, the first international biennial art award to be judged solely by artists. This year, three renowned artists, **Lubaina Himid**, **Michael Rakowitz** and **Haegue Yang**, have selected the works of three emerging artists: **Ingrid Pollard**, **Aaron Hughes** and **Kang Jungsuck**. New work by each of the winning artists will be presented in a group exhibition running from 15 February – 16 June 2019.

The biennial award has been established to recognise artists deserving of a global platform and offers a step-change moment in their career, each receiving a four-month exhibition at BALTIC, £25,000 to realise new work and a £5000 artist fee.

**Lubaina Himid** has selected the photographer, media artist and researcher, **Ingrid Pollard**; **Michael Rakowitz** has selected the artist, activist and Iraq War veteran **Aaron Hughes**; and **Haegue Yang** has selected **Kang Jungsuck**, whose work explores the intersection of technology and life. As artists working

across a diverse range of media in distinct regions, they offer an invaluable insight into the contemporary art world.

### **About the Artist Judges**

**Lubaina Himid** (born 1954, Tanzania) is Professor of Contemporary Art at the University of Central Lancashire (UK). Himid makes paintings, prints, drawings and installations which celebrate Black creativity and the people of the African diaspora while challenging institutional invisibility. Himid is the winner of the 2017 Turner Prize. Selected artist: Ingrid Pollard

**Michael Rakowitz** (born 1973, USA) is Professor of Art Theory and Practice at Northwestern University (US) and is best known for his Conceptual work conceived to exist outside a gallery context. Rakowitz created the latest sculpture for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square with his reconstruction of a winged bull at the Nergal Gate of Ninevah, Iraq, vandalised by Isis in 2015. Selected artist: Aaron Hughes

**Haegue Yang** (born 1971, South Korea) works with a wide range of media, often domestic everyday materials, to create colourful, large-scale, multi-sensory installations and sculptures. Yang recently created an immersive environment for the Liverpool Biennial 2018 in Tate Liverpool's Wolfson Gallery. Selected artist: Kang Jungsuck

### **About the Nominated Artists**

**Aaron Hughes** (born 1982, USA) is an artist, activist, teacher and Iraq War veteran based in Chicago. Hughes works collaboratively with a range of artists, veterans and activists operating in diverse spaces and media. His work seeks out and shares the poetic connections that bind us together, reveal our shared humanity and make meaning out of personal and collective trauma. Selector: Michael Rakowitz

For BALTIC Artists' Award 2019, Hughes presents *Poetry Despite, Music Despite*, an examination of the repeating traumas of war and the hopes for reconciliation and reparations. The project uses Wilfred Owen's poetry featured in Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* as a starting point for large-scale prints and a collaboration with Iraqi conductor Karim Wasifi to highlight the horrors of the historic and current state of seemingly endless war and the music and poetry created, despite.

**Kang Jungsuck** (born 1984, South Korea) makes videos, sculptures and self-published books which explore the connection of the real and the virtual. Interested in gaming and drawing from his own experiences of the digital realm, Jungsuck creates environments which explore multiple realities using video and gaming technology and fabricated objects. Selector: Haegue Yang

For BALTIC Artists' Award 2019, Jungsuck will present a mixed media installation, populated by different 'creatures'. The creatures will inhabit real and imagined worlds that the artist has constructed with objects, sculptures and video. Visitors to the gallery are invited to become part of these worlds, and create their own narratives.

**Ingrid Pollard** (born 1953, Guyana) uses photographs, prints and audio to uncover the layered histories of representation. Melding together ephemera with iconic images, the artist makes visible the invisible, to reveal 'what we always knew was there'. While investigating race, ethnicity and public spaces she has developed work juxtaposing landscape and portraiture which provide a context for issues of migration, family and home. Selector: Lubaina Himid

Recent work has included a re-examination of UK and international archives to decolonise ethnographic and state sponsored imagery of former Colonised countries. Using photographs, prints, moving image and audio, Pollard's work for BALTIC Artists' Award 2019 uncovers the layered histories of representation. Melding together ephemera with iconic images; the English with the African it makes visible the invisible, to reveal what we always knew was there.

**Director of BALTIC, Sarah Munro, commented:** *“We’re thrilled to be welcoming such a strong line-up of judges and nominees to our second Artists’ Award, which represents an important extension of our aims to support and encourage talent development of artists.”*

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#### About the BALTIC Artists’ Award

BALTIC has always supported global creative exchange, with a passion for supporting artists and engaging audiences. BALTIC’s ambition is for the international Artists’ Award to present a significant new biennial platform for nurturing emerging global talent and create discursive space for key issues for art, artists and audiences.

The award does not impose any restrictions on age, media or nationality, BALTIC’s ambition is to offer an unparalleled, step-change opportunity to make a significant new presentation with mentoring from some of the most exciting and experienced contemporary artists working today.

BALTIC’s approach is unprecedented in that artists as judges are at the centre of the award process. This new model presents a glimpse into the relationship between artists at different stages in their careers. At the core of this project is not an award ceremony but a commitment to talent development and dialogue with BALTIC’s audiences at a local, national and international level.

**BALTIC** is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over seven million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. BALTIC presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art.

Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, BALTIC consists of 2,600 square metres of art space, making it the UK’s largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions. It has presented the work of over 460 artists of 60 nationalities in 220 exhibitions to date.

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