

ANNA MORETTINI PRIZE

FIRST EDITION "THE UNIVERSE OF SAVONAROLA"

AWARD CEREMONY

This ceremony symbolically took place on the anniversary of the death of Savonarola, in Florence, at Palazzo Strozzi, a few steps from the Piazza della Signoria, where the Dominican monk was executed in 1498.

After an introduction by Arturo Galansino, Director of the Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi and member of the jury, Anna Morettini announced the winner among the three finalists: Gli Impresari (a collective composed of Edoardo Aruta, Marco Di Giuseppe and Rosario Sorbello), Luigi Presicce and Stéphane Thidet.



Anna Morettini and Stéphane Thidet at the award ceremony, Sala Ferri, Palazzo Strozzi, on May 23, 2017

THE WINNER: STÉPHANE THIDET

The winner of the Anna Morettini Prize is Stéphane Thidet with his installation *Solitaire*. Thanks to the support of the Fondation Etrillard, the artist received 20.000€ and an exhibition of his work will be organized in Florence in 2018. It will be the artist's first show in this city.



Stéphane Thidet, *Solitaire*,
2016
Water, wood, motors, two
stranded tree stump,
cables.

In situ installation at the Collège des Bernardins in Paris
Production Rubis Mécénat Cultural Fund, courtesy Galerie Aline Vidal, Galerie Laurence Bernard.
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When the visitor enters the former Sacristy of the Collège des Bernardins, it is plunged in dark and silence. The floor, covered with water, is slightly blurred by the infinite movement of two dead trees stumps suspended from large poles. Their shape and reflection play with the architecture of the Sacristy. This work is an invitation to contemplation and meditation.

«I think that the minimal radicalness with which I approached this work creates tension in the relation between the sacristy and the void, the silence, while simultaneously questioning the authority of a situation. (...) This suspension of the time, as I propose it, is not without evoking this place of worship in the way silence had to weigh upon the cell of Savonarola at the Convent of San Marco».

Stéphane Thidet

Stéphane Thidet, born in Paris in 1974, lives and works in Paris and Aubervilliers. He graduated from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts of Paris in 2002 and the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts of Rouen in 1996. He teaches at the Ecole Supérieure des Beaux-Arts of Clermont-Ferrand (space and volume). By placing ordinary objects and playing with materials in specific places, Stéphane Thidet manages to create tensions between space and reality, the work and the viewer, peril and contemplation. The notion of readymade disappears as the staging of the objects becomes a re-composition of a fictitious atmosphere. It is the dissonance between reality and fiction which interests the artist. The use of real elements to create unreal dynamics underlies the sense of alteration important to Thidet. Stéphane Thidet has had solo shows at the Abbaye de Maubuisson, the Collège des Bernardins, La Maison Rouge and Le Palais de Tokyo, among other places, and has participated at the Nuit Blanche 2016 in Paris.

www.stephanethidet.com



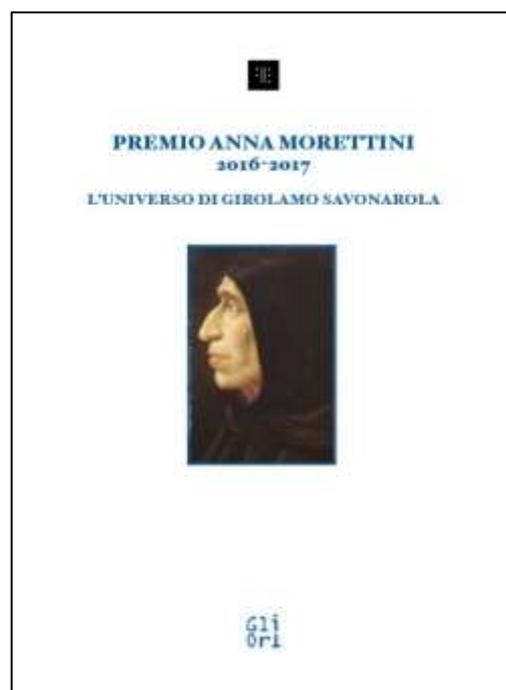
Preparatory sketch
(*Solitaire*), 2016
Ink and watercolor on
paper

THE CATALOGUE

A catalogue in Italian-English displaying the projects of the three finalists is published by “Gli Ori” of Pistoia. It will include a transcription of the conference about Savonarola organized by the Etrillard Foundation in Paris in June 2016, with the participation of Philippe Raynaud, Ludovica Sebregondi and Stéphane Toussaint, introduced by Philippe Trainar. To order the catalogue please visit the website prixannamorettini.com

Extracts of the catalogue

"The intention is not to add to the old, and in a sense, vain quarrel between the Masters and the Moderns, continuity and rupture, reading and re-reading. The basic line is very simple here: the spirit that operates in life and therefore in art ever prolongs itself and what seems to belong to the past is not rejected but transformed. Capturing the spirit and celebrating it is what this Prize is meant to encourage."



"For this first edition, candidates have been invited to express their interpretation of the character but not only. "The Universe" evokes a feeling of how Savonarola could perceive society or how his contemporaries admitted his religious and political role. This difficult theme was discussed by three experts during a conference in Paris in June 2016, the transcription of which is included in this catalogue, illustrating the conflicts and symbiosis between Savonarola and his time. During this conference, the thin line which Savonarola drew between fear and respect was explored. The rejection of the new creative aspirations, the fierce uproar against all the profane representations are to be compared with the strong search for spirituality and a deep respect for the divine message."

"Each of the three finalists brings a unique outlook on the subject. Their complementarity evokes the three aspects that make a comprehensive portrait of this historical figure still controversial today."

THE PRIZE

The Anna Morettini Prize rewards a look brought by the curiosity of a contemporary artist to the Florentine tradition. This is the first edition of a competition that aims to develop each year a different theme related to the Florentine culture and which encourages the candidate to reflect on the parallels between what made magnificent Florence and the contemporary world.

THE JURY

Caterina Biagiotti – Director, Progetto Arte Biagiotti
Arturo Galansino – Director, Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi
Stefania Gori – Art Historian
Laurent Grasso – Artist
Anna Morettini – Director, Etrillard Foundation
Ludovica Sebreghondi – Curator, Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi
Giandomenico Semeraro – Vice Director, School of Fine Arts of Florence

SECOND EDITION

The theme will be announced on June 15, 2017 on the website www.prixannamoretini.com

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