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Press release

Berlin, November 1, 2019

Monika Baer receives the Hannah Höch Preis 2020

Hannah Höch Förderpreis 2020 goes to Natascha Sadr Haghghian

Exhibitions at Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k.): June 12 – August 9, 2020

Award ceremony: June 11, 2020, 6 pm

Opening: June 11, 2020, 7 pm

The painter Monika Baer has been awarded the Hannah Höch Preis 2020 of the State of Berlin for her outstanding artistic achievements. Baer's work, often produced as series, makes use of a wide variety of painterly techniques and approaches, from monochromy to realism and physical disruption to the surface of the canvas.

During her studies at the Düsseldorf Art Academy in the 1980s, Baer was confronted not only with the prevalence of photography, but also with the dominance of male painter stereotypes. Although contemporary art critics were increasingly questioning painting's potential for innovation, Baer decided to address the medium and its scope in new ways. She achieved this by creating parallel visual layers, by challenging the medium's clichés, and by alluding to related disciplines.

Monika Baer's solo exhibition at Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k.) provides insight into the artist's most recent experimental approaches. In this first extensive presentation of her work at an institution in Berlin, Baer addresses the links between the image and social space, and how they are shaped by gender and class hierarchies. With a new constellation of large-format paintings, Baer continues her investigation of art historical references and the epoch-spanning relevance of painting.

The **Hannah-Höch-Preis** has been awarded since 1996 by the Berlin Senate Department of Culture in recognition of a lifetime of achievement in the arts. The prize is named in honour of the artist Hannah Höch (1889–1978), who achieved international fame as a luminary of the Dada movement with her work. It is awarded to artists who live and work primarily in Berlin and who have consistently produced high-caliber artistic work. It includes 25,000 euros in prize money along with an exhibition and a publication. The prize winners are selected by the Visual Arts Funding Commission of the Berlin Senate Department

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of Culture, which, along with Neue Berliner Kunstverein, includes Berlinische Galerie, Kupferstichkabinett, Georg Kolbe Museum, and Stiftung Stadtmuseum.

Hannah Höch Förderpreis 2020 awarded to Natascha Sadr Haghigian

Natascha Sadr Haghigian, who represented Germany in the German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2019, has been awarded the Hannah Höch Förderpreis 2020. Her works take the form of expansive installations, video and audio works, performative interventions in public space, and written texts. They are based on a deconstructivist approach, which Haghigian uses to reveal alternative forms of knowledge and the scope and limits of political action.

Using sociopolitical events, historical events, and rules of the art world as a point of departure, Haghigian reflects on societal conditions and investigates systemic power structures. In a humorous way, she allows personal experiences to flow in to the work, which often point to artistic boundaries and societal constraints. Recurring motifs include the investigation of ways of seeing and the power of the gaze shaped by sociocultural and technocultural factors, and the militarization of civil structures.

With the **Hannah-Höch-Förderpreis**, the State of Berlin honours the artistic achievements of Berlin-based artists and supports their future development. This mid-career prize is awarded by the Berlin Senate Department of Culture every two years together with the Hannah-Höch-Preis. The Förderpreis comprises 10,000 euros in prize money and an exhibition with catalogue. The winner is selected by an independent jury consisting of one member of the Visual Arts Funding Commission of the Berlin Senate Department of Culture and two independent jury members nominated by the Department of Culture. This year's jury consisted of Selda Asal (visual artist and founder of the Apartment Project project space, Berlin), Kathrin Becker (managing director of Neuer Berliner Kunstverein and director of the n.b.k. Video-Forum), and Dr. Britta Schmitz (curator, Berlin).

Further information and images can be found at www.nbk.org under Press. Username: press; password: n.b.k.2019

If you have any questions, please contact Michaela Richter, telephone: +49 (030) 280 70 20; email: presse@nbk.org

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