



**Koninklijke
Academie van
Beeldende
Kunsten**

**Royal
Academy of Art**

**Hogeschool der Kunsten
Den Haag
University of the Arts
The Hague**

Jury report Royal Bachelor Award 2021

Jury:

Janine Huizenga (chair)
Klaus Jung
Taco Stolk
Herman Verkerk
Dirk-Jan Visser
Mark van Vorstenbos

The Royal Bachelor award committee was challenged with the task to assess the work of 21 nominated bachelor students from seven different departments, which was honorable and nearly impossible alike. A process in which the committee had to bring together a broad range of art presentations to a comparable analogy. These varied from (room filling) physical and performative works to video/VR installations, a refreshing social construct and expressions more educative in nature. In its considerations the committee focused on societal engagement, as well as the ability to question the educational discipline in relation to a broader perspective.

In light of these criteria the committee decided to reward 'The Flood' of Tina Farifteh is the 2021 Royal Bachelor Award. With her capstone, Tina integrated the instrument of language into the photography discipline, demonstrating how her visual language can be both seductive and uncomfortable to address urgent matters.

With 'The Flood' as graduation piece, Farifteh was determined to make a work about the tragedy of boat refugees. Our fear for flood - as used by rightwing politicians in the phrase 'a tsunami of refugees' - gave her visual clues to explore the Dutch history of holding back the water. She ended up filming a storm on the sea, realizing she had to go further to experience her own vulnerability. Her immersive installation is an attempt to transfer that physical experience to her audience, added voices demonstrate well the competing narratives of propaganda, fake-thru, and facts of the era we live in. The work of Tina Farifteh is permeated by a deep concern for the fate of individuals.

Further to Farifteh's preliminary thesis research, the committee is very much interested in exploration of how empathy and imagination mutually relate.