

iii Research Residency Award 2021

About the award

This year for the first time iii awards the iii Research Residency Award to a fresh graduate of the Royal Academy of Art. The winner will be invited for a 4-week residency at iii workspace, which includes a fee of €2000 and a production budget of €1000.

Winner

Cemre Kara

Nominees

Kexin Hao, Leonardo Scarin

Jurors

Yun Lee, Matteo Marangoni, Philip Vermeulen

Motivation for our choice of winner

As winner of the iii Residency Award for 2021, for the compelling power and masterful execution of the performance *Elbows on the Table*, we choose Cemre Kara. Cemre's work offers a stunning visual and dramatic presentation drawing on timeless aesthetic worlds of classical painting, theatre, performance and video art, confronting us viscerally with the most basic reactions of repulsion and attraction. By reinventing the use of ordinary cutlery, what seems innocently familiar is revealed in a new light. We begin to question how the dialectics of culture vs biology and civilization vs barbarism are encoded in the tools and rituals of dining. Greed, power and violence dance in a precarious equilibrium with beauty.

As a platform operating in the field of Art, Science & Technology, we find it refreshing how the work approaches the relationship between humans and technology: focusing on tools that we tend to take for granted. Here "cutting edge" is true only in the most literal sense. Rather than insisting on the cliché of new inventions that make life easier, we would like to reinforce how sometimes inventions that make things harder can be more rewarding.

We see strong potential for future development in the work of Cemre Kara that we are eager to support through the residency program of iii.

We also need to mention the two other nominees for the award, Kexin Hao with *Total Body Workout* for bringing joy to the authoritarian image of the healthy body at a time in which it is very much needed, and Leonardo Scarin for taking two things we don't usually like, a VR headset and quarantining, and combining them in the poetic and beautiful experience that is *Variations on a Remote Room*.

About iii

iii is an artist run, community platform supporting new interdisciplinary practices linking performance, technology and the human senses. Founded by alumni of the ArtScience Interfaculty and Institute of Sonology in 2013, iii has been supporting new graduates each year from the start. Since 2021 iii has obtained recognition from the Municipality of The Hague and the Creative

Industries Fund NL in the form of structural funding and is therefore able to offer stronger support to artists undergoing the delicate transition between studies and profession.