



JURY REPORT JAN ROËDE AWARD 2023

13 June 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of visual artist Jan Roëde (1914-2007) from The Hague. To mark the occasion, the board of the Jan Roëde Foundation, founded to manage his artistic legacy, established that year in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Art the Jan Roëde Award, an annual incentive prize for a graduating artist from the KABK's Fine Arts department.

As a token of recognition, the prize aims to encourage the laureate to further develop his or her talents after graduation and is being awarded for the tenth time this year.

The jury for the Jan Roëde Prize 2023 consisted of Olga van Hulsen, Louw van Sinderen, Dick Stapel, Huub van Wersch (all members of the Foundation Board) and Josje Hattink (visual artist). From the KABK, the jury was guided by Antoinette Vonder Mühl and Collette Rayner from the Fine Arts department.

On 30 June 2023, the jury assessed the 44 pieces of work and presentations by the students who graduated from the Fine Arts department this year. The jury was impressed by the quality, diversity and eloquence of many of the projects displayed during the Graduation Show. Following its deliberations, the jury decided to award this year's Jan Roëde Prize to:

Jemima de Jonge

A little hidden in the academy - up stairs, down stairs, down the corridor, behind the canteen - the jury arrived in a small cardboard portal. As unsuspecting visitors, we stepped into another world, a world of cardboard, shrouded in subdued light. Before our eyes unfolded a paper spectacle of mundanity: seemingly simple, but palpably complex and full of absurd and wondrous details. With *A Body of Water*, Jemima constructed a rabbit hole for the viewer. Entering it, the jury imagined themselves in a Wonderland. As we went from

space to space in this ever-expanding diorama, we were sucked into an overwhelming overall experience. With delicately conceived choreography, *A Body of Water* manages to silently transform the visitor from spectator to participant.

After this experience, the jury was unanimous in its decision to award the Jan Roëde Award to Jemima de Jonge. Because the prize's namesake, Jan Roëde, was himself a painter pur sang, the jury always has an eye for the painterly qualities of presented works. It will therefore be no coincidence that in the past painters were often chosen for the prize. Why did the jury with conviction choose Jemima's work this year? First of all, because *A Body of Water* is simply a cast-iron and beautiful work of art that members of the jury will not easily forget. But also because, visually and conceptually, *A Body of Water* seems to touch on painting. Without paint and without a brush, but with the bravura of a fine painter, Jemima builds the compositions of her installation. She does so with tableaux, miniatures and a delicate play of hot and cold light that invades the cardboard rooms, with a masterful perspective at the end. Is this the jury's imagination or do we really see here a cardboard nod to the painting of the past? The light falling into a cardboard box, a string light like Vermeer's? The scene of a company filmed from one perspective feasting on cardboard at the table. It could also have been potatoes. Are we seeing a Last Supper or a Jan Steen household here? There are rustling references to the greats of classical painting in every corner of Jemima's installation. But cardboard is the material of unpretentious simplicity: it is merely packaging material. And that is precisely why the jury finds this choice so exciting: packaging indicates an invisible content. Thus, *A Body of Water* presents a total experience, in which the artist's layered world of experience unfolds in cardboard.

Convinced by the vision and mastery of craft she manages to exhibit in that portal, the jury is delighted to declare Jemima de Jonge the winner of the Jan Roëde Award 2023.

On behalf of the jury of the Jan Roëde Prize,

Huub van Wersch,
jury chairman

The Hague, 3 July 2023

The Jan Roëde Award 2023 consists of a donation of support to the artistic practice of the laureate, to a maximum sum of €3,000. This is intended to encourage the further artistic development of the artist after their graduation. The conditions of this prize are that the Jan Roëde Foundation asks the laureate to submit a proposal for how they will use this stipend, after which the prize can be spent on the next step in their career as an artist. The recipient of the Jan Roëde award will be featured and presented on the foundations website (www.janroede.nl).