

JURY REPORT

Thesis Award 2019 – Bachelor and Master Royal Academy of Art, The Hague

Organized by the Lectorate Art Theory & Practice i.c.w. the Theory Platform

Jurors:

Yolande van der Heide, deputy director, Casco Art Institute: Working for the Commons
Rosa te Velde, KABK tutor BA Interior Architecture and Furniture Design
Chair: Alice Twemlow, KABK Lector Design

Nominees – in alphabetical order of department

BACHELOR DEPARTMENTS:

Department : [Bachelor ArtScience](#)
Title : Travel Guide
Name : Sunna Svavarsdóttir
Supervisor(s) : Michiel Pijpe

Department : [Bachelor Fine Arts](#)
Title : Mathemagics
Name : Daniele Formica
Supervisor(s) : Thijs Witty

Department : [Bachelor Graphic Design](#)
Title : Archives of the North
Name : Risto Kujanpää
Supervisor(s) : Merel Boers, Dirk Vis, Füsün Turetken

Department : [Bachelor Interior Architecture & Furniture Design](#)
Title : The Human, in Motion
Nominee : Maja Pop-Trajkova
Supervisor(s) : Ernie Mellegers & Ronald van Tienhoven

Department : [Bachelor Interactive Media Design](#)
Title : Lost Landscapes
Name : Anna Pilgrim

Department : [Bachelor Photography](#)
Title : Exit Wounds
Name : Tibor Dieters
Supervisor(s) : Ingrid Grootes

Department : [Bachelor Textile & Fashion](#)
title : A Premium Mediocre Thesis
Name : Lina Lau
Supervisor(s) : Anna Elisabeth Kruyswijk

MASTER DEPARTMENTS:

Department : [Master Artistic Research](#)
Title : Reclaiming Cinema Through a Feminist Impulse: An Ethics of Possible Presence
Name : Lucy Cordes Engelman
Supervisor(s) : Jasper Coppes, Janice McNab

Department : [Master ArtScience](#)
Title : [na]scent language
Name : Lauren Jetty
Supervisor(s) : Marion Tränkle

Department : [Master Interior Architecture](#)
Title : Millennial Heritage, Reactivating the places of our memories
Name : Laura Frías Muñoz del Cerro
Supervisor(s) : Anne Hoogewoning, Gerjan Streng

Department : [Master Industrial Design](#)
Title : Hidden Kingdom, Exploring the uncharted paths of a hyperobject
Name : Johanna Günzl
Supervisor(s) : Merel Kamp, Yassine Salihine

Department : [Master Non Linear Narrative](#)
Thesis title : Automated Inquisition and the Standard Human
Name : Corinna Canali
Supervisor(s) : Mijke van der Drift, Nick Axel

Department : [Master Type and Media](#)
Title : Ligneau, The process behind a revival of Linotype Transit
Name : Ryan Bugden
Supervisor(s) : Paul van der Laan

General remarks

We thoroughly enjoyed immersing ourselves in the fascinating research territories of this year's set of nominated theses. KABK students are not intimidated by weighty issues and are good at intuiting some of the urgent social and political concerns of our era. Many of the writers managed to combine deep research with critical reflection on their own practice, to engage with theoretical concepts, and to communicate their insights in vivid and engaging language. The formats of the theses this year were also particularly innovative, using design and layout to emphasize the themes being explored: a thesis on scent used scratch-and-sniff inserts as illustrations, while another used complex folds to put the reader into contorted positions in order to convey embodied knowledge of the topic of Mathemagics, and a third used a lasercut wooden cover to materialise the contours of the lost landscapes being researched within.

As there are no KABK-wide standards for how to approach a thesis, we evaluated each thesis on its own terms, but during our discussion we made reference to a set of criteria which are generally considered to be benchmarks in the assessment of theses in art and design schools. This year's jury was also on the look out for evidence of a student's criticality in relation to their topic and to their field of practice, their capacity to "trouble" the limitations and prejudices of their disciplinary world views.

Winning Bachelor thesis:

Department : [Bachelor Graphic Design](#)
Title : Archives of the North
Name : Risto Kujanpää
Supervisors : Merel Boers, Dirk Vis, Füsun Turetken

The thesis of Risto Kujanpää, *Archives of the North*, conducts research into the oppressed and threatened languages of the Sami people in Fennoscandia and asks whether a typeface can become a vessel for communicating values of inclusion and for facilitating change? The thesis provides a strong and convincing combination of theory and practice to essay a response to this question and to situate typography at the heart of a political issue . The jury appreciated how Risto had used this thesis not only try to understand his position as a practitioner in the world but also to problematize that position. His research benefits from its site specificness, use of interviews and primary sources. It also exciting to realize that the author is not done with this topic; it's a starting point for a critical practice.

Winning Masters thesis:

Department : [Master Interior Architecture](#)
Title : Millennial Heritage, Reactivating the places of our memories
Name : Laura Frias Munoz del Cerro
Supervisors : Anne Hoogewoning, Gerjan Streng

Competition in the MA thesis category was particularly strong. The jury wanted to call out for a special mention:

Department : [Master Artistic Research](#)
Title : Reclaiming Cinema Through a Feminist Impulse: An Ethics of Possible Presence
Name : Lucy Cordes Engelman
Supervisor : Jasper Coppes, Janice McNab (Head of dept.)

The jury found the thesis of Lucy Cordes Engelman, *Reclaiming Cinema Through a Feminist Impulse: An Ethics of Possible Presence*, a splendid and exciting exemplar of artistic research. The writing is sophisticated, layered, subtle yet confident. The first half is theoretical support and the second half provides the applied/fictional interpretation. Almost ready to be published, this thesis deserves a special mention.

But in the end the jury decided that Laura Frías Muñoz del Cerro's thesis *Millennial Heritage, Reactivating the places of our memories*, is the ultimate winner. It's an excellent example of design research, where mapping, drawing, and a visual taxonomy are deployed as research methods and beautifully integrated with the writing to create the impression of effortless cohesion. The text itself juxtaposes a personal, fictionalised evocation of the experience of being displaced from and not recognizing the city where one grew up and a historically and theoretically grounded essay on the global context for this experience. While the thesis deals with heritage, memory, amnesia and nostalgia, it is notable for its future-facing approach which proposes, authoritatively but modestly, how to reactivate aspects of the urban landscape. The design of the book is exquisitely done and well thought through, supporting the content through use of layered images and different paper stocks and page sizes to differentiate the personal narrative from the more objective analysis.