

PRESS INFORMATION

Frank Bowling to Receive the 2022 Wolfgang Hahn Prize

Frank Bowling (*1934 in Bartica, Guyana) will be awarded the 2022 Wolfgang Hahn Prize by Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst on November 15, 2022.

The award ceremony always also includes an acquisition for the collection of the Museum Ludwig. Thanks to the artist's generosity, the 2022 Wolfgang Hahn Prize will mark the first acquisition of one of his works for a public collection in Germany. Frank Bowling's painting *Flogging the Dead Donkey* (2020) becomes part of the Museum Ludwig collection.

The work's title is a wry statement by the artist about abstract paintings, which he has worked on over and over again, like flogging a dead donkey. He encountered the practice of abstract painting during his early years in New York starting in 1966, when he engaged with the works of Ad Reinhardt, Barnett Newman, Clyfford Still, Marcia Hafif, and Mark Rothko, all of whom experimented with monochrome painting and its variants. The overall composition of Bowling's painting is an homage to earlier generations of colorists. The complexity of the surface textures and the extraordinary intensity of the red tones as well as the subtle flashes of other colors and remnants of gold pigments are inimitable. This late work, which illustrates Bowling's continuing engagement with color and geometry, gives life to his maxim that "the possibilities of color are infinite."

The work will be shown in a presentation at Museum Ludwig from 16 November 2022 to 12 February 2023. Also on display will be archival materials and quotations that outline Bowling's diverse engagement with art as an artist and writer. A film by his son Sacha Bowling combines photographic and film footage from throughout his artistic career with an informative recent interview between Mel Gooding and Frank Bowling. Also presented is the edition created by Frank Bowling based on a paper work developed by the artist from the drip edge of the purchased painting.

"The artist is being recognized for his work in the latter part of a long career and at the beginning of his status as a classic in art history. Frank Bowling creates unique abstract paintings that subversively resist clear interpretations in their thematic and material complexity. With the acquisition for the Wolfgang Hahn Prize, the Museum Ludwig will be the first public collection in Germany to obtain one of Bowling's paintings, thus opening up the possibility of a deeper reception of his oeuvre. We are very grateful to Frank Bowling for his generosity," says Mayen Beckmann, chairwoman of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst.

Yilmaz Dziewior, director of the Museum Ludwig: "Since 2017, when I saw Frank Bowling's exhibition *Mappa Mundi* at Haus der Kunst, I hoped to acquire one of his works for the collection of the Museum Ludwig. After all, a work like *Flogging the Dead Donkey* (2020), in which the spirit of American color field painting and British abstraction combine to form an incomparable, very independent position, represented a gap in our important and multifaceted collection of abstract tendencies. I'm delighted that we can now help bring Frank Bowling's work the attention it deserves in Germany."

Frank Bowling (*1934 in Bartica, Guyana) lives and works in London. He graduated from the Royal College of Art in 1962. As an artist and contributing editor for *Arts Magazine* in New York from 1969 to 1972, he made an early and significant contribution to debates on African-American art. Bowling was appointed Royal Academician in the United Kingdom in 2005 and was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 2008 for his services to the arts. Bowling's work is represented in over fifty collections around the world, including the Menil Collection in Houston, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and Tate Britain in London. His art has been featured in many exhibitions, including solo exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York in 1971 and the Serpentine Gallery in 1986 as well as in the extensive solo exhibition *Mappa Mundi* (2017–2019) at Haus der

Kunst in Munich, the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin, and the Sharjah Art Foundation. Tate Britain in London hosted a comprehensive retrospective of his work in 2019.

The catalogue *Frank Bowling. Wolfgang-Hahn-Preis 2022*, edited by Pia Gamon, with a preface by Mayen Beckmann and Yilmaz Dziewior and a text by Zoé Whitley will be published by Walther and Franz König.

Award ceremony and opening: Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: November 16, 2022 to February 12, 2023

About the Wolfgang Hahn Prize

The Wolfgang Hahn Prize is awarded annually by the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst am Museum Ludwig, and is being presented in 2022 for the twenty-eighth time. The award is primarily intended to recognize contemporary artists who have already made a name for themselves in the art world through their internationally recognized oeuvre, but who are not as well known in Germany as they deserve to be. The prize money of a maximum of 100,000 euros comes from contributions by the members and is used to acquire a work or series of works by the artist for the collection of the Museum Ludwig. The prize includes an exhibition organized by the Museum Ludwig with an acquired work by the prize winner as well as an accompanying publication.

The name of the award honors the memory of the passionate Cologne collector and painting restorer Wolfgang Hahn (1924–1987), who was involved in various ways with the art of the European and American avant-garde in Cologne. The Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst is indebted to his exemplary work as a collector, a founding member of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst, and the head of the restoration workshops at the Wallraf Richartz Museum and the Museum Ludwig.

The previous recipients are:

2021	Marcel Odenbach
2020	Betye Saar
2019	Jac Leirner
2018	Haegue Yang
2017	Trisha Donnelly
2016	Huang Yong Ping
2015	Michael Krebber and R.H. Quaytman
2014	Kerry James Marshall
2013	Andrea Fraser
2012	Henrik Olesen
2011	John Miller
2010	Peter Fischli and David Weiss
2009	Christopher Wool
2008	Peter Doig
2006	Mike Kelley
2005	Richard Artschwager
2004	Rosemarie Trockel
2003	Niele Toroni
2002	Isa Genzken
2001	Raymond Pettibon
2000	Hubert Kiecol
1999	Pipilotti Rist
1998	Franz West
1997	Cindy Sherman
1996	Günther Förg

1995 Lawrence Weine
1994 James Lee Byars

About BAUWENS and EBNER STOLZ: Sponsors of the Evening of the Award Ceremony, the Presentation, and the Publication

The long-established corporate group BAUWENS develops, plans, builds, and manages residential and commercial real estate projects throughout Germany. EBNER STOLZ is one of the largest independent, mid-sized auditing and consulting firms in Germany. In advising its clients, it distinguishes itself with its multidisciplinary approach, which combines auditing, tax advisory, corporate consulting, and legal advisory services. The companies have their headquarters in the same building in the Rheinauhafen in Cologne.

Since 2016, BAUWENS and EBNER STOLZ have supported the evening of the award ceremony, the presentation, and the publication of the Wolfgang Hahn Prize.

Further information: www.bauwens.de and www.ebnerstolz.de