

Roswitha Haftmann Stiftung

Press release

Zurich, 14 May 2009

Roswitha Haftmann Prize awarded to artist Vija Celmins.

The Roswitha Haftmann Prize, Europe's best-endowed art award, is being presented this evening to the American artist Vija Celmins.

Christoph Becker, Chairman of the Board of the Roswitha Haftmann Foundation, is at this moment presenting the American artist Vija Celmins with the Roswitha Haftmann Prize, Europe's best-endowed award for a living artist, worth CHF 150,000. The laudation is being held by art critic Hans-Joachim Müller before an invited audience of some 400 guests at the Kunsthaus Zürich.

Born in 1938 in Riga, Vija Celmins is the third female artist to win Europe's most valuable distinction of its kind, joining an illustrious group that also comprises Maria Lassnig and Mona Hatoum. Other prizewinners include Walter de Maria, Jeff Wall, Robert Ryman, Peter Fischli and David Weiss, Richard Artschwager and Douglas Gordon.

The Prize was originally the initiative of Roswitha Haftmann (1924-1998). Since 2001 the Foundation has awarded it every one to three years to a living artist who has created an oeuvre of outstanding quality.

For more information see www.roswithahaftmann-foundation.com.

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