

Press release

Isabell Kamp awarded the Luise-Straus-Preis of the LVR

Exhibition in the Max Ernst Museum Brühl of the LVR as of 14 May 2023

Brühl, 9 February 2023. The artist Isabell Kamp (*1980 in Bonn), who lives and works in the Rhine-Sieg district, is being awarded the Luise-Straus-Preis of the LVR 2022.

Isabell Kamp completed a programme of study from 2003 to 2008 at the Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design with Prof. Holger Bunk, Prof. Volker Lehnert and Prof. Birgit Brenner. The prizewinning artist has been represented in national and international solo and group exhibitions since 2004.

The jury – Dorothee Coßmann (Managing Director of Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung Rhineland), Dr Lotte Dinse (former head of Künstlerhaus Schloss Balmoral), Dr Klara Drenker-Nagels (Director of Museum August Macke Haus, Bonn), Dr Petra Hesse (Director of Museum of Applied Arts Cologne), Dr Achim Sommer (former Director of Max Ernst Museum Brühl des LVR) and Prof. Thorsten Valk (Director of LVR-LandesMuseum Bonn) – audited 40 applications and decided unanimously from among the varied positions in favour of the current prize-winner in the final vote:

“Isabell Kamp, born in 1980 in Bonn and living in the Rhein-Sieg district, impressed the jury in particular through the innovative power of her artistic position in the field of object, installation and sculpture, as well as with the unconventional and extremely convincing connection the artist creates between her themes and the chosen materials. Her objects and sculptural arrangements, occasionally extending into the fantastic and the surreal, thereby oscillate impressively between the charming and the unsettling”, according to the reasoning of the jury.

Isabell Kamp interprets the traditional medium of ceramics in a contemporary way for her sculptures and installations and supplements it with materials like wood, metal, rope or fabric. Intertwined wrists, fingers pointing nowhere or serpentine bodies shaped into knots take on a peculiar life of their own. Thematically, the artist deals with the human body, with its possibilities for communication and expression, its presence, but also its fragility. The ceramics fired in the kiln also convey fragility. The surface is immaculate and at the same time sensitive to light incidences or disruptions, which are reflected. Isabell Kamp pursues the question of how human bodies communicate, but also how this language can fail us: Will hands encounter nothingness, or will touch, contact, the gesture and thus communication be possible?

The works of the new Luise-Straus-Preis winner, Isabell Kamp, can be seen from **14 May to 9 July 2023**, together with selected works of the current prize-winner of the Max Ernst Grant of the City of Brühl, the Cologne artist Fabian Friese, in a double exhibition in the Max Ernst Museum Brühl des LVR. The opening takes place on 13 May 2023.

Background information about the Luise-Straus-Preis of the LVR:

The Luise-Straus-Preis of the the Rhineland Regional Council (LVR) honours an artist for “outstanding works in the field of Fine Arts”, is endowed with 5,000 Euro and is awarded every two years. An exhibition and a catalogue are organised within the framework of the Luise-Straus-Preis of the LVR.

https://rheinland-ausgezeichnet.lvr.de/de/lvr_preise/luise_straus_preis/luise_straus_preis.html

More information on the double exhibition of the prize-winners of the Luise-Straus-Preis of the LVR and the Max Ernst Grant 2023 of the City of Brühl (duration: 14 May – 9 July 2023):

www.maxernstmuseum.lvr.de

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