The 54th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale

The 9th Benesse Prize
Winner: Adrian Villar Rojas

The 9th Benesse Prize jury meeting was held on June 3, 2011 and the jury (Ms. Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, Mr. Herve Chandes, Mr. Lu Jie, Mr. Fram Kitagawa) decided unanimously to award Adrian Villar Rojas (aged 30, Argentina), who exhibited The Murderer of Your Heritage, a monumental site-specific installation at the Argentine Pavilion, Arsenale, among the artists who participated in the 54th Venice Biennale. He will be awarded one million yen and invited to Benesse Art Site Naoshima, and provided with the possibility of commission work at Benessa Art Site Naoshima. The award ceremony and reception were held at Luna Hotel Baglion at 6h00 pm on the same day, and more than 180 people attended. Mr. Rojas was given the prize by Mr. Kenichi Fukuhara, vice president of Benesse Holdings, and shared the joy with his family and his 20 staff members worked in situ for two months.

Adrian Villar Rojas
Born in Rosario, Argentina in 1980, and studied Fine Arts at the University of Rosario, Argentina. His work has been exhibited at international venues such as Serpentine Gallery (London), CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts (San Francisco), Galería Kurimanzutto (Mexico, DF), Akademie der Künste (Berlin), Galería Ruth Benzacar (Buenos Aires), Museo de Arte Moderno de San Pablo (Brazil), X Bienal de Cuenca (Ecuador), II Bienal del Fin del Mundo (Ushuaia) and II Trienal Poligráfica de San Juan (Puerto Rico). He has also been appointed for 12th Istanbul Biennial, 2011.

Jury
Ms. Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev (Artistic Director, Documenta 13)
Mr. Herve Chandes (General Director, Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporain)
Mr. Lu Jie (Chief Curator, Long March Project)
Mr. Fram Kitagawa (General Director, Setouchi International Art Festival)
Comments of Jury
We would like to nominate Argentine artist Adrian Villar Rojas for his imaginative and ‘materic’ materialistic installation of cement sculptures in the Arsenale for the following reasons: The work manifests metamorphic fantasy, as well as transformative and transitive powers into material forms of archaic and very contemporary imagery. Furthermore, Adrian is inspired by current notions of ‘multiverses’ and parallel universes. The work appear very light although the material is heavy, and this counter-intuitive experience brings his work close to much current thought evolving in quantum physics and philosophies about the nature of reality and dreams.

For further information, please contact:

Naoshima Fukutake Art Museum Foundation
Attn: Takako URABE, Yoshino KAWURA
Tel: +81 (0)87-892-2550  Fax: +81(0)87-892-4466  E-mail: press@fukutake-artmuseum.jp

Benesse Prize Secretariat
Attn: Rei Maeda (c/o Art Front Gallery)
Tel: +81 3 3476 4868  Fax: +81 3 3476 4874  Email: rei@artfront.co.jp

Award ceremony
(from left) Mr. Fram Kitagawa, Mr. Adrian Villar Rojas, Mr. Kenichi Fukuhara (Vice President, Benesse Holdings), Ms. Carolyn Christov=Bakargiev, Mr. Lu Jie

Reception party
Adrian Villar Rojas’ site-specific installation
The Murderer of Your Heritage at Argentina Pavilion, Arsenale