



Press Release / May 2011
Tamotsu Fukushima
President, Benesse Holdings, Inc.

The 54th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale

The 9th Benesse Prize

Benesse Holdings, Inc. (Benesse) is pleased to announce that it will award the 9th Benesse Prize at the 54th Venice Biennale to one promising artist (or group) trying to break new artistic ground with an experimental and pioneering spirit. The prize is open to all artists and works in the Biennale.

We have invited as jury members Mr. Hervé Chandès (General Director, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain), Ms. Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev (Artistic Director, Documenta 13), Mr. Lu Jie (Chief Curator, Long March Project) and Mr. Fram Kitagawa (General Director, Setouchi International Art Festival).

It is with great expectation that we await the announcement of the artist to receive the 9th Benesse Prize at an award ceremony and reception to be held on June 3 at 18:00 at Luna Hotel Baglioni.

Benesse Prize

As a company that supports people to live well through its all activities, Benesse established the Benesse Prize at the 46th Venice Biennale in 1995 with the aim to recognize the artistic activities of an outstanding artist (or group) and supports future work of the winner. For more than 20 years, Benesse has taken the lead in creation of a community through art, including the activities at Benesse Art Site Naoshima and this prize is positioned as part of Benesse CSR activities.

The first Benesse Prize was awarded to an artist included in "Trans Culture", an exhibition jointly organized by the Japan Foundation and the Fukutake Science and Culture Foundation. With the bestowing of the 2nd Benesse Prize in 1997, the scope of this award was expanded, and is now open to all artists and works in the Biennale, including those showing in all the pavilions in the Giardini as well as the special exhibitions.

Beginning with the 3rd Benesse Prize, an artist (or group) trying to break new artistic ground with an experimental and pioneering spirit, the prize also considered the possibility of commissioning a work at Benesse Art Site Naoshima.

The 9th Benesse Prize

Benesse will award 1,000,000 Japanese yen to support future activity of the winning artist. The artist will be invited to visit Benesse Art Site Naoshima as well. The realization of the commission work is a subject to discuss later between the selected artist and Benesse.

Sponsored by Benesse Holdings, Inc.

Supported by Naoshima Fukutake Art Museum Foundation

Members of Jury for the 9th Benesse Prize



Hervé Chandès

1985-1994: Curator at the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain for the international program. Since 1994, as General Director, controls all the Fondation Cartier's activities. His curated exhibition includes "Issey Miyake Making Things" "William Egglestone" "Cai Guo-Qiang" "Takashi Murakami" "Daido Moriyama" "Jean Paul Gaultier" "Hiroshi Sugimoto" "David Lynch" "Beat Kitano Takeshi" and more over.



Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev

A curator and writer. The Artistic Director of dOCUMENTA (13), 2012. She was Chief Curator at the Castello di Rivoli Museum for Contemporary Art from 2002-08, and was interim director for 2009. She has written extensively on contemporary art and the relationships between recent international art and the historical avant-gardes; these publications include *Arte Povera* (London: Phaidon Press, 1999), and *Mario Merz* (Turin: Castello di Rivoli, 2006).



Lu Jie

Director and Chief Curator of Long March Project and Founder of Long March Space, Beijing. Widely exhibited internationally during its nine-year foundation, the latest endeavor of Long March Project was *Ho Chi Minh Trail*, a major project for *Rehearsal - The 8th Shanghai Biennale*, China. He is on the Editorial Board of the *Yishu - Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* and advisor to the Asia Art Archive. Adjunct professor at the China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China.



Fram Kitagawa

General Director of Setouchi International Art Festival and General Director of Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial. Chairman of Art Front Gallery. His produced exhibitions and projects include "Antonio Gaudi" "Art against Apartheid", "Faret Tachikawa Art Project". Setouchi International Art Festival attracted over 930,000 visitors.

Award Ceremony & Reception

June 3, 2011 6pm-8pm

Salone Marco Polo, Luna Hotel Baglioni / San Marco 1243, 30124 Venice

www.baglionihotels.com/

The 1st – 8th Benesse Prize Winners

The 1st Benesse Prize (Awarded at the 46th Venice Biennale, 1995)
Cai Guo-Qiang (China)

The 2nd Benesse Prize (Awarded at the 47th Venice Biennale, 1997)
Alexandros Psychoulis (Greece)

The 3rd Benesse Prize (Awarded at the 48th Venice Biennale, 1999)
Olafur Eliasson (Iceland / Denmark)

The 4th Benesse Prize (Awarded at the 49th Venice Biennale, 2001)
Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller (Canada)

The 5th Benesse Prize (Awarded at the 50th Venice Biennale, 2003)
Rirkrit Tiravanija (Thailand)

The 6th Benesse Prize (Awarded at the 51st Venice Biennale, 2005)
Tacita Dean (UK)

The 7th Benesse Prize (Awarded at the 52nd Venice Biennale, 2007)
Adel Abdessemed

The 8th Benesse Prize (Awarded at the 53rd Venice Biennale, 2009)
Hans-Peter Feldmann

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