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Tamotsu Fukushima
President, Benesse Holdings, Inc.

The 55th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale

The 10th Benesse Prize

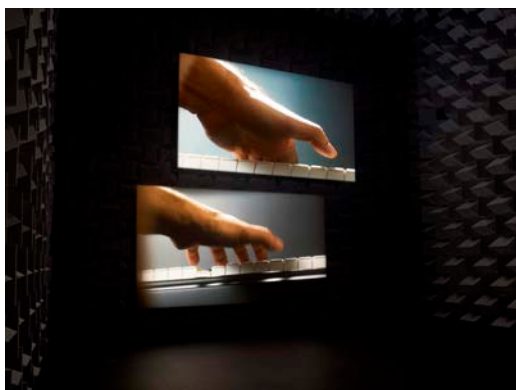
Winner: Anri Sala

Since 1995, Benesse Holdings, Inc. (Benesse) has awarded the Benesse Prize to promising younger artists with a pioneering spirit at the Venice Biennale, a major international art exhibition held once every two years.

For the 55th Venice Biennale held this year, Benesse is pleased to announce that it will award the 10th Benesse Prize to Anri Sala, whose video installation *Ravel Ravel Unravel* was shown in the French Pavilion at the Biennale's Giardini venue.

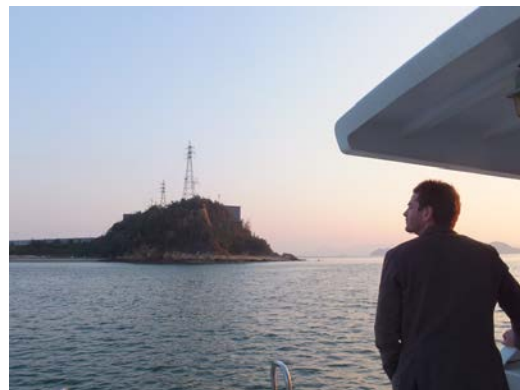
This year we mark a special milestone with the 10th Benesse Prize. A four-member jury (Akiko Miki, Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi, Sunjung Kim, and Paula Toppila) conducted a pre-screening in late May during the exhibition preview, with a final screening later held with Benesse Director and Chairman Soichiro Fukutake in attendance, and Anri Sala was selected as the recipient of the prize. Based on the premise that he will create a new work at Benesse Art Site Naoshima in the future, Sala was invited to visit the facility and presented with a prize of 3,000,000 JPY.

Sala recently visited the site, toured various locations that will serve as a basis for the piece's conceptual framework, and met with Fukutake. Work on the piece will move forward with the goal of presenting it to the public in 2016.



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Anri Sala *Ravel Ravel Unravel*, 2013
French Pavilion, The 55th International Art Exhibition
of the Venice Biennale



Sala touring the site



Sala takes part in a meeting on Naoshima



Sala on a tour of Teshima

Anri Sala



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Born in Tirana, Albania in 1974, Sala studied at the National Academy of Arts, Tirana, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, and Le Fresnoy, Studio National des Arts Contemporains in Tourcoing. He has exhibited internationally at institutions such as Centre Pompidou, Paris (2012), Serpentine Gallery, London (2011), Musée d'art Contemporain de Montréal, Montréal (2011), National Museum of Art, Osaka (2011), Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Miami Florida (2008), and the Dallas Museum of Art, Texas (2002). He has received numerous prizes, including the Absolut Art Award (2011), and the Young Artist Prize at the 49th Venice Biennale (2001).

Jury

Akiko Miki (Senior curator, Palais de Tokyo)

Sheikha Hoor Al Qasimi (President, Sharjah Art Foundation)

Sunjung Kim (Curator / Director, SAMUSO: Space for Contemporary Art)

Paula Toppila (Executive Director, IHME Contemporary Art Festival)

Jury Comments

The pre-screening stage takes into account not only the work displayed at the Venice Biennale but the eligible artists' entire body of work thus far, and the jury had praise for Sala's work of recent years, which entails the creation of experiential spaces featuring a complex interplay between music, architecture and video imagery. A decisive factor was Sala's application of the relationship between architecture and music to the poetic exploration of themes such as the geopolitical and socioeconomic context of places, and the impact of various ruptures on the individual. Benesse Art Site Naoshima places a strong emphasis on the local history and natural environment of the region, and there are high expectations that Sala's new work for Benesse will bring another fresh approach to the 'site-specificity' that is different from the artworks already exhibited at the site.

— Akiko Miki (chair of the jury)

For further information, please contact:

Benesse Holdings, Inc.

Attn: Akira Kotani

Tel: +81-(0)87-892-2887 Fax: +81-(0)87-840-8277 E-mail: BASN-press@mail.benesse.co.jp