

# ARTS & CULTURE

## Palestinian artist wins award of leading art foundation



**SHARJAH:** Shuruq Harb (b. 1980 in Palestine), is the recipient of the Han Nefkens Foundation - Fundació Antoni Tàpies Video Art Production Award 2019. She will receive \$15,000 from the Han Nefkens Foundation to support the production of a new, limited edition video. From 2020, her resulting artwork will be exhibited in five institutions internationally: the Fundació Antoni Tàpies in Barcelona; the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore; WIELS in Brussels; the Museum of Contemporary Art and Design in Manila and Jameel Arts Centre in Dubai.

The Han Nefkens Foundation - Fundació Antoni Tàpies Video Art Production Award appraises the work of emerging artists aged 40 and under who live in West or Central Asia and have established a solid trajectory but not yet received recognition by international art institutions.

In the current event, eight highly respected art critics and curators undertook the process of scouting, proposing three candidates each, and a shortlist of seven artists was drawn up by the Fundació Antoni Tàpies and the Han Nefkens Foundation. Harb was selected from the shortlist by Han Nefkens, Founder of the Han Nefkens Foundation, and the director of each venue for the forthcoming travelling exhibition.

"We support the career of emerging video artists by connecting them with the most renowned art institutions and curators from across the world in addition to providing for their production costs", Nefkens said. The Selection Committee stated that Harb was chosen for "her capacity to generate knowledge out of a conflict-ridden lived reality. Her incisive film making provides a critical reading of contemporary existence; a poetic reflection on image production and



how this is used in conflict zones. Her singular practice is simultaneously nuanced and complex". Harb is an artist, filmmaker, writer and editor. She is currently leading a programmed learning residency for Arab artists at MMAG Foundation in Amman titled 'Acts of Simulation'. Her artistic practice focuses on online visual culture and explores subversive routes for the circulation of images and goods.

Her work has been presented in solo and group exhibitions at Art Asia Biennial, Taiwan (2017), New Museum, New York (2014), Columbia

University GSAPP, New York (2013) and Gwanju Biennial, South Korea (2012), among others.

The artist long-list for the Han Nefkens Foundation - Fundació Antoni Tàpies Video Art Production Award 2019 was proposed by Eva Khachatryan: Curator, Suburb Cultural Center, Armenia; Fawz Kabra: Independent Curator, Palestine/USA; Lali Parteneva: Art Historian/Critic, Georgia; Omar Berrada: Co-Director at Dar al-Ma'mun, Morocco; Ramin Haerizadeh, Rokni Haerizadeh and Hesam Rahmaniyan: Iran-born artists based in Dubai; Sona Stepanyan:

↑ **Shuruq Harb.**  
Inset: Han Nefkens.

Independent Curator, Armenia; Tina Sherwell: Program Director, Contemporary Visual Arts, Palestine and Yotam Shalit: Intrator: Dvir Gallery Director, Belgium.

The artist short-list for the award included Basma Alsharif (Palestine, 1983); Benji Boyadgian (Palestine, 1983); Farah Al-Qasimi (UAE, 1991); Omar Mismar (Lebanon, 1986); Rouzbeh Akhbari (Iran, 1992); Harb and Simohammed Fettaka (Morocco, 1981).

The final jury was composed of Carles Guerra: Director of the Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona; Dirk Snauwaert: Director of WIELS, Brussels; Han Nefkens; Joselina Cruz: Director/Curator at Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila; Nora Razian: Head of Exhibitions at Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai and Ute Meta Bauer: Founding director of the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore.

The Han Nefkens Foundation is a private non-profit organisation that was founded in Barcelona in 2009 by Dutch writer and patron, Han Nefkens. It aims to promote art and the artistic process, and in turn, connect people through art and collaborating with renowned international art institutions.

"The foundation's founding values", it says, "have defined it from the beginning as an innovative and forward-thinking model: a production hub that oversees and promotes contemporary creation from the very first moments until the final presentation. Positioned as a platform for artists to advance in their

careers, its main activity - always at the international level - is to commission works through its awards and grants".

The Fundació Antoni Tàpies was created in 1984 by artist Antoni Tàpies to promote the study and knowledge of modern and contemporary art. It takes a plural, interdisciplinary approach and aims to set up cooperative ventures with experts in different fields of learning to contribute to a better understanding of contemporary art and culture.

NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (NTU CCA Singapore) is a national research centre affiliated with Nanyang Technological University (NTU). It is located in Gillman Barracks, a visual arts precinct in Singapore, spread out across four buildings: the exhibition hall, artist studios, the research centre and main office.

WIELS is a contemporary art centre situated in Brussels, Belgium. It has been described as "an international laboratory for the creation and the diffusion of contemporary art" and is the leading contemporary art institution in Belgium. It has nine artist-in-residency studios for which it receives hundreds of applications every year and numerous programmes of educational activities and community oriented programmes.

Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, is one of the first contemporary arts institutions in the emirate. Located at Jaddaf Waterfront, the centre's multiple gallery spaces are home to curated commissions, projects and solo and group exhibitions, drawn both from the Art Jameel Collection and through regional and international collaborations.

Muhammad Yusuf, Features Writer