

Corentin Canesson, winner of the Frac Bretagne-Art Norac Award 2021

Launched in 2020, the Frac Bretagne-Art Norac Award aims to support the international professional development of artists living and working in Brittany.

Among the 43 received applications, a professional jury selected 7 artists. Their works are presented at Frac Bretagne from February 12 to September 19, 2021.

After meeting each artist in their studio, MacKenzie Stevens, art director of the Visual Art Center, Austin, Texas, USA, attributed the Frac Bretagne - Art Norac 2021 Award to Corentin Canesson.

His work will be the subject of a solo exhibition at the Visual Arts Center in Austin, USA in 2022.



Corentin Canesson © Anne-Laure Buffard

Corentin Canesson

Born in 1988, lives and works in Brest and Paris.

Graduated from EESAB-Rennes in 2011, he participated to the 21st Prize of Fondation d'entreprise Ricard Le Fil d'Alerte. He has presented solo exhibitions at Sator gallery in Paris (2020), at Nathalie Obadia gallery in Paris (2018), at Crédac – Centre d'art contemporain d'Ivry-sur-Seine (2017) and at Passerelle Centre d'art contemporain in Brest (2015).

Corentin Canesson practices painting as one would cover a music standard. Well aware of the medium's history, he simultaneously works on abstract and figurative canvases, playing with resurgence of more or less confessed or hidden references to the paintings of Bram Van Velde or Philip Guston.

The "figures" inhabiting these series are to be understood here in the sense of "pretexts" to (continue to) paint. Whether the lyrics of a song by Yo La Tengo, the color of a book cover, a bird with a long beak are often the starting point for long series. Never really completed, the series continue to develop over the years, incorporating variables such as the format of the canvas or the exhibition budget.

For *Mauve Zone* (exhibition of the nominees of the Frac Bretagne-Art Norac Award 2021), paintings made between 2010 and 2017 are displayed side by side along with canvases freshly painted on site, within a triple line. This display lacking unit of time or chronology is like an "ongoing retrospective" highlighting the strange permanence that operates within the work of Corentin Canesson where the oldest paintings are regularly brought into play, where abstract series closely rub shoulders with figurative works. As a space porous to music, Corentin Canesson's pictorial work goes hand in hand with his practice as a guitarist in the experimental rock band The Night He Came Home. Without defined contours, this band constitutes another collaborative space to record and perform alongside other artists.

Frac Bretagne - Art Norac Award

A project led by Frac Bretagne thanks to the support of Art Norac

Frac Bretagne and Art Norac have been engaged in the construction of the artistic landscape in Brittany for a long time, with the goal of revealing the artistic talents and initiatives present within the region in the context of contemporary national and international artistic scenes.

In 2020, Frac Bretagne and Art Norac have chosen to join forces in their engagement with local artists by creating the Frac Bretagne–Art Norac Award. The goal of the award is to help bring artists active in the region to the international scene, in order to promote the professionalisation of their journey beyond the borders of France.

Each year, a partner structure in Europe or the rest of the World that is prepared to welcome an artist living and working in Brittany to produce a personal exhibition will be associated with the program.

For this first edition, the international partner institution is the Visual Arts Center (VAC) in Austin, Texas, United States, which will host the winner’s monographic exhibition in 2022.

Le Frac Bretagne

The Frac Bretagne, founded in 1981 by the National Government and the Brittany Regional Council, is a leading institution in the western region of France. Since 2012, it has been located in a building designed by the French architect Odile Decq in Beaugard park in Rennes. Its 5000+ works collection is recognized regionally, nationally.

Through an ambitious program of exhibitions, dissemination and documentation of the collection as well as numerous programs for the public, the Frac Bretagne’s artistic and cultural project, entitled “Making archipelagos”, aims to question the ways in which the institution can address the legitimate aspirations of our contemporary society. Inclusivity, diversity and openness towards other fields of discipline in Brittany and the rest of the world are important facets of its mission, developed through a horizontal and participative mediation policy, the inclusion of the Frac in international circulations, and its dedication to co-productions with other institutions. It is also committed to addressing gender equality and issues of eco-responsibility.

Art Norac, the Award sponsor

Art Norac is an organization dedicated to the patronage of the arts, led by the agri-food group Norac. Founded in 2005 by Bruno Caron, Norac’s chairman and founder, the organization supports contemporary creation and participates in its dissemination to the general public and to employees of Norac group companies. For the Norac group, Art Norac provides a mean to actively participate in society and to develop its social responsibility in Rennes, where its head office has been located for many years. Art Norac notably supports various contemporary art initiatives and actors in Rennes and Brittany (Master MAE, 40mcube, the Archives of Art Criticism...).



Le Visuel Arts Center, 2021 Award partner

The Visual Arts Center (VAC) is a contemporary art space located in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas in Austin. The VAC is a resource platform for artists, curators and teachers to experiment, test ideas and take risks. Its mission is to generate constructive debates on art and contemporary society through exhibitions and public programs. An environment of discovery through experience devoted to important issues of our time, the VAC brings together the artistic community of Austin, students of the University of Texas, specialists and audiences of all ages to exchange ideas about the concepts of racial, societal, gender and cultural classes



More informations on www.fracbretagne.fr