

Jannes Linders to receive the Berry Koedam Award

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The Berry Koedam Award honors creators with their visual documentation of artworks and exhibitions, as well as of art events and artistic communities in the Netherlands. This is one of three awards that Kunstinstituut Melly launched in 2020, each involving a unique focus. Supported by various foundations, this awards program was designed to celebrate the institution's thirtieth anniversary by honoring its ecosystem over time.

We are pleased to announce that photographer **Jannes Linders** (1955) is the recipient of the *Berry Koedam Award*. He will receive a cash gift of €5,000 and will be honored in an awards ceremony held at Kunstinstituut Melly on [March 16, 2023](#).

The *Berry Koedam Award* recognizes the important role that visual documentation—often published and circulating without proper credits—has in significantly promoting an understanding of art in and of the present. This unique award recognizes image-makers creating outstanding documentation in the art field, which has helped give visibility to the work of artists and art institutions.

Linders was selected through a nomination and jury process overseen by Kunstinstituut Melly in 2022. He was one of more than twenty image makers nominated by museum professionals, editors of magazines and newspapers, as well as by visual artists and independent curators. All portfolios by the nominees were reviewed and discussed by an external jury.

The jury members for this second-edition of the *Berry Koedam Award* were **Matthew Antezzo**, artist, producer and former head of Art & Culture at Polaroid; **Samira Benlaloua**, founding director of platform Extra Extra; and, **Robert Glas**, an artist and photographer based in Rotterdam. Their meeting was chaired by Kunstinstituut Melly's director, **Sofia Hernández Chong Cuy**.

The jury stated that "when seeing Linders portfolio it was apparent that the photographer was following the documentation commission-brief; but it was likewise apparent his lens was capturing something else, something 'other' in the image." According to the jury, this 'other' is a feeling, an attitude that the image expresses through perspective and atmosphere.

In the first edition of this award, the jury chose to award self-initiated documentary work. The photographer **Dustin Thierry** was the awardee then, who was honored last year. In this second edition, the jury gave most attention to commissioned documentation. And, while for the first edition the jury focused on prizing portraiture of artistic communities, this time their attention centered mostly on images of art and its varied forms of presentations – from art in public space to museum or private collections, and from focused images for catalogs to their activations in performance and events.

The jury spoke highly of the differentiated style of Linders' documentary photography, which impressively denotes the context and environments of art on display, as much as the experience its beholder may have, whether in the presence of art or through its documentation.

"Linders photography is empathic," the jury stated, "because it grants both art and its beholder a central place in the image."

About Jannes Linders

Since 1981, [Jannes Linders](#) (1955) has worked as an independent photographer and has been regularly commissioned to document art and exhibitions. He has been commissioned by institutions such as the Rijksmuseum and Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, Boijmans van Beuningen in Rotterdam, De Pont in Tilburg, Centraal Museum Utrecht, and Groninger Museum. Much of his work is related to the cultural landscape, urban planning, architecture, as well as logistics and traffic at the airport, train station and the port of Rotterdam. From 1993 until 2021, Linders taught at the St. Joost School of Art & Design, Breda in the department now called Photo, Film and the Digital. Linders lives and works in Rotterdam.

About Kunstinstituut Melly

Kunstinstituut Melly, formerly known as Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, opened to the public in 1990. Our new name came into effect on 27 January 2021. Since our foundation, we have worked with hundreds of artists to present exhibitions and programs of contemporary art. With our new name, 2021 saw the beginning of a new institutional phase, too. Central to this is working with an ecosystem-based framework, where artistic innovation, collaboration and partnerships, as well public engagement are at the heart of our program.

About the *Berry Koedam Award*

Created in 2020, the *Berry Koedam Award* is unique. It has been created through a partnership between Berry Koedam and Kunstinstituut Melly. The founder of the [ramfoundation](#) and a former art gallerist in Rotterdam, Berry Koedam has given visibility to the work of artists in the Netherlands for over 30 years, significantly promoting the understanding of contemporary art herself. She remains an active supporter of contemporary arts today and, since our opening in 1990, she has also been one of our institution's frequent visitors.

The *Berry Koedam Award* is one of three awards designed, in principle, to celebrate Kunstinstituut Melly's thirtieth anniversary by simultaneously celebrating the contributions of those who make its cultural ecosystem so vibrant. [Click here](#) to learn more about Kunstinstituut Melly's awards program.

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