

For immediate release

Bridging Borders: Best Cultural Initiative

Press images

Link to vote [voting closes 2 March at 6 pm CET]

LCD Berlin launches new award and invites public to vote



Teeter-Totter Wall Project, © 2020 Rael San Fratello



Eröffnung Barenboim-Said Akademie - Pierre Boulez Saal © Jan Zappner

To celebrate the first edition of the LCD Berlin Awards, LCD Berlin is delighted to announce details of its new award: ***Bridging Borders: Best Cultural Initiative***, as well as the award's shortlisted nominees. The award honours outstanding cultural initiatives that promote intercultural dialogue and create connections across physical or metaphorical borders.

The two projects in the running for *Bridging Borders: Best Cultural Initiative* are the **Teeter-Totter Wall**, a see-saw art installation by Virginia San Fratello and Ronald Rael, constructed along the Mexico-United States border; and the **Barenboim-Said Academy**, which offers conservatory education for talented young musicians from the Middle East, North Africa, and around the world.

LCD Berlin is calling on the public to cast their votes for the winner, which will be announced at the LCD Berlin Awards ceremony in Berlin on 4 March, during LCD Berlin (4-5 March). Voting ends on 2 March at 6 pm CET. Access the link to vote here: <https://lcdberlin.com/bridgingborders/>.

About the award and nominees

In a world where physical and non-physical walls are increasingly prominent, building bridges between cultures and people is more necessary than ever before. With this in mind, ***Best Cultural Initiative: Bridging Borders*** is intended to shine a light on artistic work and institutional initiatives that connect people, enable intercultural learning, and emphasise the importance of a world without restrictive borders.

Teeter Totter Wall | Virginia San Fratello and Ronald Rael, USA

The installation *Teeter Totter Wall* by Virginia San Fratello and Ronald Rael has been a huge source of inspiration for many. It consists of three steel beams working as seesaws along the U.S.-Mexico border fence. The symbolically strong installation has brought moments of reflection and joy, demonstrating how a criticism of inhuman circumstances can be explored in a universally understood language. Building a connection between people where a wall aims to segregate them, the installation reveals the power of art to playfully intervene, send a powerful sign and build bridges where they are needed. Although the installation lasted only 40 minutes, images of the piece were shared around the world and have had a lasting impact.

Barenboim-Said Academy | Berlin, Germany

The Barenboim-Said Academy offers a conservatory education for talented, young musicians from the Middle East, North Africa, and around the world, combining intensive music performance studies with a grounding in the humanities – all in the heart of historic Berlin. Most of the students that take part come from an environment of political and economic tension and disruption, and the Barenboim-Said Academy offers an opportunity to train to become exceptional musicians and artists. Furthermore these young people also become ambassadors of humanism and peace both in their regions of origin and around the world. An initiative such as the Barenboim-Said Academy aims to offer a voice and an incubator for sustainable peace.

LCD Berlin, a new partnership between **Leading Culture Destinations** (LCD) and **visitBerlin**, is the first city-led initiative to build a sustainable ecosystem for culture and travel professionals from Berlin and beyond, bringing culture and travel together to create new opportunities for collaboration. Taking place from 4 - 5 March 2020 around the cultural quarter of Kulturforum, the LCD Berlin platform launches with two parts: the **LCD Berlin Academy**, a series of ideas and knowledge-sharing sessions across the fields of art, culture, travel, politics and economics, and the **LCD Berlin Awards**, the sixth edition of the annual LCD Awards, presented outside of London for the first time, LCD Berlin will coincide with ITB Berlin (Internationale Tourismus-Börse Berlin), the world's largest travel trade fair.

With friendly support from:



Senate Department
for Economics, Energy
and Public Enterprises



Notes to editors

For more information about the Leading Culture Destinations Awards for 2020, please visit LCDBerlin.com.

For press information please contact

Pickles PR - Amanda Kelly | amanda@picklespr.com | +34 685 875 996

visitBerlin – Christian Tänzler | christian.taenzler@visitberlin.de | +49 30 26 47 48, ext. 912

LCD Berlin Awards

LCD Berlin Awards (March 4)

The Awards highlight the world's best established and emerging cultural destinations, recognising their exceptional contribution to cultural life. With a variety of categories, the **LCD Berlin Awards** reflect the experiential shift of cultural destinations to become places where visitors explore, dine, shop, work and sleep. The **LCD Berlin Awards** nominees are shortlisted by a team of LCD ambassadors, exhaustive research and recommendations from the world's leading cultural nomads. Selected by an esteemed international jury, the winners will be announced at the **LCD Berlin Awards** ceremony on 4 March 2020.

In addition to **Best Cultural Initiative: Bridging Borders**, the **LCD Berlin Awards** for 2020 feature 17 further awards across the following sections: **Leading Culture Destinations of the Year** (with five categories); **New Culture Destinations of the Year** (with five categories); **Soft Power Destinations Of The Year, In Partnership With Local Cultural Resources** (with three categories); **Climate Smart Award** (with one category); and **Avis Travellers' Awards** (with three categories).

The **LCD Berlin Awards** winners will be announced on 4 March 2020. The nominees for the **LCD Berlin Awards** for 2020 are:

LEADING CULTURE DESTINATIONS OF THE YEAR

Best Exhibition of the Year

- *Sunday. Carsten Höller* - Museo Tamayo (Mexico City, Mexico)
- *Hilma af Klint: Paintings for the Future* - Guggenheim New York (New York, USA)

Best Architecture of the Year

- National Museum of Qatar - Jean Nouvel (Doha, Qatar)
- V&A Dundee - Kengo Kuma (Dundee, Scotland, UK)
- The Twist gallery - Bjarke Ingels (Kistefos Museum And Sculpture Park, Norway)

Best Restaurant of the Year

- AlpiNN, Lumen Museum Of Mountain Photography (Dolomiti, Italy)
- Flutes - Singapore National Museum (Singapore)
- Beba - Gropius Bau (Berlin, Germany)

Best Shop of the Year

- Maritime Museum of Denmark (Elsinore, Denmark)
- Picasso Museum (Paris, France)
- National Museum of Qatar (Doha, Qatar)

Best Digital Experience of the Year

- Atelier des Lumières (Paris, France)
- AI: More than Human - Barbican (London, UK)
- Ars Electronica Centre (Linz, Austria)

NEW CULTURE DESTINATIONS OF THE YEAR

Asia Pacific

- Tsz Shan Monastery Buddhist Art Museum (Hong Kong, China)
- UCCA Dune Art Museum (Beidaihe, China)
- Pompidou Shanghai / West Bund Art Museum (Shanghai, China)

Europe

- Muzeum Susch (Susch, Switzerland)
- MO Museum (Vilnius, Lithuania)
- Amos Rex (Helsinki, Finland)

Latin America

- Museum of Image and Sound (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- Museo Regional Aysen (Patagonia, Chile)
- SFER IK (Tulum, Mexico)

Middle East / Africa

- National Museum of Qatar (Doha, Qatar)
- King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) (Dhahran, Saudi Arabia)
- Palais de Lomé (Lomé, Togo)

North America

- Glenstone Museum (Potomac, Maryland, USA)
- Transart Foundation for Art and Anthropology (Houston, Texas, USA)
- MoMa re-opening (NYC, New York, USA)

SOFT POWER DESTINATIONS OF THE YEAR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LORD CULTURAL RESOURCES

Best Activation

- Heidelberg Project (Detroit, Michigan, USA)
- Friar's Music Museum by Downtown Yonge Bia (Toronto, Canada)
- Stellenbosch University Museum (Stellenbosch, South Africa)

Best Cultural Organisation

- Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre (Sault Ste. Marie, Canada)
- Prince George's African American Museum And Cultural Centre (North Brentwood, Maryland, USA)
- Bihar Museum (Patna, India)

Best Cultural Collaboration

- SAWA - Sharjah Museums Authority, UAE / State Museums of Berlin; University of Applied Sciences Berlin (HTW); Goethe-Institut, Germany (UAE / Germany)

- Sisters in Liberty - Opera di Santa Croce and Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration (Santa Croce, Italy / New York)
- Ottawa Art Gallery (Ottawa, Canada)

AVIS TRAVELLERS' AWARDS

Best Cultural Festival

- Desert X (Coachella Valley, California, USA)
- Lofoten International ART Festival 2019 (Lofoten Islands, Norway)
- Bergen Assembly (Bergen, Norway)

Best Emerging Culture City

- Tbilisi (Georgia)
- Malaga (Spain)
- Marrakech (Morocco)

Best Art Hotel

- L'Arlatan (Arles, France)
- The Fife Arms Hotel Hauser & Wirth (Braemar, Scotland, UK)
- Can 7 (Formentera, Spain)

CLIMATE SMART AWARD in partnership with SUNx

- The Climate Museum (NYC, New York, USA)
- Not An Alternative (NYC, New York, USA)
- Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change (Hong Kong, China)
- Klimahaus Bremerhaven 8° Ost (Bremerhaven, Germany)

BEST CULTURAL INITIATIVE: BRIDGING BORDERS

- Teeter-Totter Wall by Virginia San Fratello and Ronald Rael (USA)
- Barenboim-Said Academy (Germany)

Winner to be selected by public vote.

LCD Berlin Academy (March 5)

At the brand-new format **LCD Berlin Academy**, globally recognised experts come together in Berlin to discuss the challenges and opportunities at the intersection of culture, tourism and urban society. Together the award laureates, international stakeholders, local actors and institutions will explore untapped potential in cultural tourism, promote cooperation, share exclusive insights and emphasise the role of Berlin as a global hub for culture and a safe haven for dialogue. The results of the annual **2019 LCD Trends Report** and findings from the **LCD Berlin Salon**, the forerunner of the **LCD Berlin Academy**, which took place in September 2019 at Berlin Tempelhof Airport, will also be discussed.

LCD Berlin

LCD Berlin is the first city-led initiative to build a sustainable ecosystem for culture and travel professionals from Berlin and beyond. Taking place around Berlin's cultural quarter of Kulturforum from 4-5 March, LCD Berlin 2020 comprises two key pillars: the 6th edition of the annual **LCD Berlin Awards**, presented outside London for the first time, and the **LCD Berlin Academy**, an afternoon of intimate ideas and knowledge-sharing sessions for experts across the fields of art, culture, travel, politics and economics. LCD Berlin is the result of a new partnership formed in 2019 between global culture travel network Leading

Culture Destinations (LCD) and visitBerlin, the city of Berlin's destination marketing and management arm. For more information, visit LCDBerlin.com.

visitBerlin

"Inspiring the world for Berlin." It is with this mission that Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH conducts destination management as well as tourism and congress marketing for Berlin. The company, which operates under the brand name visitBerlin, is a partner, actor, ideas provider and networker. The work focuses on sustainable product development and the marketing of tourism offers, which are compatible with the city, in all twelve districts. The aim is to preserve the quality of life of Berliners and to increase the quality of guests' stays. visitBerlin acts as a tour operator and issues the official tourist ticket, the Berlin WelcomeCard. The company also operates Berlin Tourist Infos and the Berlin Service Center, which can be reached at +49-30-25 00 25. At visitBerlin.de, Berlin's official travel portal, visitors to Berlin will find all the information they need for their trip to Berlin. More about visitBerlin at about.visitBerlin.de.

More information about visitBerlin at <https://about.visitberlin.de/>.

Leading Culture Destinations

Founded by Florian Wupperfeld, Leading Culture Destinations (LCD) is the culture travel network connecting the next generation of cultural nomads to the most exciting cultural destinations worldwide. LCD is most widely known for its annual awards ceremony, the LCD Awards, now in its sixth year, which shine a light on the most exceptional established and emerging cultural institutions around the world that cultural travellers should add to their wishlists. Each year LCD also hosts a series of global knowledge sharing and networking initiatives to bring members of its Ambassador network together with local stakeholders to exchange on key topics at the intersection of culture and travel – from cultural placemaking, to soft power and sustainable tourism. LCD also runs Art Safari guided experiences to the most exciting cultural destinations worldwide.

More about LCD at www.leadingculturedestinations.com.

LCD Berlin Awards Jury

The winners of the LCD Awards for 2020 will be selected by a distinguished international jury comprised of **Matthew Anderson**, European culture editor for *The New York Times*; **Helena Egan**, tourism and place-making specialist; **Dr. Martin Heller**, cultural advocate and arts patron; **Oliver Jahn**, editor-in-chief, *AD Architectural Digest*; **Meryanne Loum-Martin**, founder of AFRÆculture.org; **Dr. Thierry Morel**, director, curator-at-large and board member of the Hermitage Foundation; artist **Ahmet Ogut**; and **Salma Tuqan**, deputy director of the Delfina Foundation.

Matthew Anderson

Matthew Anderson is the European culture editor of *The New York Times*. He oversees coverage of the arts and entertainment in the region from *The Times*' bureau in London. He joined in 2017 from the BBC, where he worked for 10 years as a reporter, producer and editor for TV, radio and online. He was the editor of the BBC.com homepage, then became the inaugural editor of BBC Culture, online art and entertainment site aimed at digital users outside the U.K.

Helena Egan

Helena has worked in the travel and tourism industry for the past 20 years, and is a sought after keynote speaker, panellist, judge and advisor to the travel and tourism industry. In 2017, in addition to fulfilling her lifelong dream of travelling the world, she founded Planet

Egan Ltd, a boutique consultancy with her husband, Roger. Prior to this, she was Global Director of Industry Relations at TripAdvisor, acting as a liaison for hospitality trade associations and government organisations, along with being the ambassador to the global hospitality sector.

Dr. Martin Heller

After completing legal studies and a PhD in legal History and Philosophy in 1991, Dr. Martin Heller began working as a business consultant and founded his own law firm in Berlin in 1994. With an increased focus on contemporary art, aspects of production, the artist as an entrepreneur and the art world in general, he is a strategic, economic and diplomatic consultant for institutions and activities such as Gallery Weekend Berlin, Kunst-Werke Berlin e.V and Berlin Biennale, as well as teaching at art academies worldwide.

Oliver Jahn

Oliver Jahn has been the editor-in-chief at *AD Architectural Digest Germany* since 2011. Jahn is practically a brand of his own on the international design, interiors, and architecture scene. The bibliophile – with more than 15,000 books on his shelves – studied linguistics, literature, and philosophy in Kiel, Germany. He worked at the Suhrkamp publishing house in Frankfurt and the art magazine *Monopol* before joining *AD* in 2006.

Meryanne Loum-Martin

A French citizen of Senegalese and West Indian descent, Meryanne Loum-Martin began life as a Parisian lawyer, but after travelling to Morocco in 1985, she moved to Marrakesh after discovering a passion for the city's rich culture and history. Now the founder AFRÆculture.org, an initiative celebrating the creativity of the African diaspora in literature, cinema and entrepreneurship, as well as an internationally renowned interior designer, with interests as diverse as her countries of origin, Loum-Martin's development projects and design achievements have been celebrated in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Architectural Digest*, *Condé Nast Traveller*, *Elle Décor*, *Coté Sud*, *Town & Country* and *Vogue*, among others.

Dr. Thierry Morel

A Rhodes Scholar, Dr. Thierry Morel was educated at the universities of Paris and Oxford, where he graduated in law and history of art. A postdoctoral research associate at the University of Cambridge, he has done extensive research on the history of art collections and art provenance in Europe. He has also written and produced plays and films, among them *Private View*, a ten-part series of TV documentaries on art collectors. In 2013, he curated the *Houghton Revisited* exhibition in the UK.

Ahmet Öğüt

Born in Silvan, Diyarbakir, Ahmet Öğüt lives and works in Amsterdam and Berlin. He completed his BA from the Fine Arts Faculty at Hacettepe University, Ankara, and has an MA from the Art and Design Faculty at Yıldız Teknik University, Istanbul. Working across various media, he has exhibited widely, including numerous group and solo exhibitions, as well as co-representing Turkey at the 53rd Venice Biennale (2009). Awards include the Visible Award for the Silent University (2013); the special prize of the Future Generation Art Prize, Pinchuk Art Centre, Ukraine (2012); the De Volkskrant Beeldende Kunst Prijs 2011, Netherlands; and the Kunstpreis Europas Zukunft, Museum of Contemporary Art, Germany (2010).

Salma Tuqan

Salma Tuqan is deputy director of the Delfina Foundation. She graduated from Cambridge University with an MA in History of Art and has an MA in Arts Policy and Cultural Management from Birkbeck University. She was also the Contemporary Middle East Curator at the V&A for eight years, worked as head of artists' projects at Art Dubai from its inauguration in 2007 to 2011, and was the artistic director of Contemporabilia. She is a strategic advisor to NuMu (Guatemala City), as well as a committee member of the Arab Image Foundation (Beirut), The Palestinian Museum (Birzeit), and The Khatt Foundation (Amsterdam).