

# CELESTE KUNSTPREIS

## CELESTE KUNSPREIS 2008 – PRESS RELEASE

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**The first Celeste Kunstpreis, a new contemporary art prize in Germany in which artists vote the 20.000 euro prize money, was officially presented on Thursday 25th October 2007 at the Friedrichshöhe Brewery in Berlin.**

The unique structure of the prize was outlined by Steven Music, the founder of the Celeste network of European prizes and Paola Coppola, director of Celeste e.V. and organiser of Celeste Kunstpreis, in the presence of Dr. Franz Schultz, mayor of Kreuzberg-Friedrichshain, the largest district in Berlin, and Johanna Martin founder member of the Landsberger Allee 54 e.V., to the German press, art critics, art galleries and artists present at the meeting.

“The prize empowers artists to make their vision of contemporary art known by choosing themselves the winning works”, says Steven Music, “the ongoing process of re-appropriation of cultural spaces by artists is reflected in our prize. I am convinced we are entering a new era in which artists through previously unknown forms of organisation, participation and decision-making, can communicate their work and vision about contemporary art more easily. “

“The Celeste Kunstpreis is not only an art prize as we are traditionally know a prize to be with an exhibition and a catalogue, rather it is an exciting network with a strong and growing internet platform which helps artists reach-out and promote their works in interactive ways. This I believe is something, particularly younger and emerging artists place great value in. We have gone beyond a links-only web platform for artists, we are talking of getting individuals in institutional organisations and commercial galleries, and friends of artists to view, vote and talk about associated artists' works, and are working to make available new services for associated artists and viewers of our websites.”

The organiser and founder of Celeste prizes, which also exist in Italy (since 2004) and in the UK (since 2006, in collaboration with Goldsmiths College and Times Online, the online version of The Times newspaper), explains the advantages of participating in the prize are not limited to national boundaries:

„Celeste Kunstpreis is part of a network of European contemporary art prizes whose aim is also to show the works of associated artists outside their country of origin. There are plans to host exhibitions with Landsberger Allee 54 e.V. at the Friedrichshöhe Brewery of works by Celeste artists from the UK and Italy, and vice versa to exhibit Celeste artists from Germany and the UK at an important institution in Italy.”

The German prize, which is organised in a similar way as other national prizes, features an open-call to all persons who are working as artists, without restrictions of age, profession, nationality or theme for candidate works. Participating artists in Germany become members of the no-profit Celeste e.V. for the duration of the prize year by subscribing with a fee which ranges from 40 to 60 euro, depending on their status (student or non-student) and whether they exercise a direct upload of their candidate work on the prize website. A subscription fee enables artists to be part of all the prize activities according to the terms and conditions of the prize.

Thomas Wulffen, art critic and member of the panel of selectors for the Celeste Kunstpreis 2008 present at the press conference adds:

“In spite of the large workload placed before of a jury for a national art prize of this size, it is always stimulating to be able to find out and analyse what is happening in contemporary art,

especially in an art scene full of young, emerging artists to whom the Celeste art prize is reaching out. I am sure that the work of interesting German artists will emerge from the Celeste Kunstpreis, on a par with those who won prizes in Britain and Italy.”

Dr. Franz Schultz, mayor of Kreuzberg-Friedrichshain, who began talking at the conference, made it clear that the public administration of the city is keen to support the activities of Celeste Kunstpreis and Landsberger Allee 54 in their efforts to exhibit and promote contemporary art at Friedrichshöhe Brewery.

Further details about the Celeste Kunstpreis 2008:

A panel of three renowned German art critics Andreas Schlaegel, Raimar Stange, and Thomas Wulffen, will select in January 2008 the 60 Celeste Kunstpreis 2008 finalists' from among all the works presented by 15 December 2007. The selection will be according to quality and contemporary content (see terms and conditions [www.celestekunstpreis.de](http://www.celestekunstpreis.de) ). In April 2008 at the Celeste Kunstpreis finalists' exhibition, to be held at the Friedrichshöhe Brewery from 1-27 April 2008, the 60 finalist artists will be invited to cast their vote for their preferred works (artist and student prize) and prize money will be awarded directly to the winners. During the prize giving ceremony the Celeste Kunstpreis catalogue 2008, a 250 page catalogue with circa 300 images of participating works, will be presented to the public, and distributed free to participating artists.

Prizes: 2008 Celeste Kunstpreis awards 12.000 euro to the artist and 8.000 euro to the student artist.

Celeste Network

[www.celestekunstpreis.de](http://www.celestekunstpreis.de)

[www.celesteartprize.co.uk](http://www.celesteartprize.co.uk)

[www.premioceleste.it](http://www.premioceleste.it)

Best regards,  
Paola Coppola

Director of Celeste e.V.  
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