

Press release

# The Vincent Award announces withdrawal two nominees

The organisation of The Vincent Award announces that the artists Nairy Baghramian and Jutta Koether have withdrawn as nominees for The Vincent Award 2016. Gemeentemuseum Den Haag regrets this, as both the international jury, museum and Broere Charitable Foundation were delighted with their nomination.

Jutta Koether has withdrawn as nominee for The Vincent Award 2016 for private reasons.

Nairy Baghramian has announced that she is withdrawing from The Vincent Award 2016 in response to the dispute between artist Danh Vo and art collector Bert Kreuk.

The Vincent Award was established by Broere Charitable Foundation. An independent international jury nominates five European artists for the award. Gemeentemuseum Den Haag provides the platform for the prize, and organises the associated exhibition and award ceremony.

Two years ago, the museum was unfortunately the context for a dispute between artist Danh Vo and art collector Bert Kreuk. This led to a lawsuit. In this case the museum was called to appear as witness. In court, the museum answered questions under oath of both the judge and both parties' lawyers. Gemeentemuseum Den Haag was never party to this case. Nevertheless, Nairy Baghramian has withdrawn as a nominee for the award, citing the dispute.

The international jury, the museum and Broere Charitable Foundation were delighted with Nairy Baghramian's nomination, and regret the fact that she has decided to withdraw. Her reason for withdrawing is particularly regrettable given the fact that The Vincent Award specifically aims to allow artists to devote themselves freely to their development as artists, and reflects the great value Europe places on art. The winner is free to spend the €50,000 in prize money as he or she sees fit.

The organisers of The Vincent Award are currently considering how to proceed.