

Press release, September 2019

Katarina Löffström awarded the Blickachsen Prize 2019

At a prize-giving ceremony attended by many invited guests, Katarina Löffström accepted the “Friends of Blickachsen Art Prize” for 2019. The Swedish artist received the prize, worth 5000 Euros, for her work “Open Source (16:9)”, created for Blickachsen 12.

The **Blickachsen Prize** has been awarded every two years since the fourth edition of the Sculpture Biennale in 2003, honouring each time the distinctive artistic approach of one of the exhibition’s younger participants. Since 2015, the award has been endowed by the **“Friends of Blickachsen”**.

“After careful consideration, the **jury’s** decision this year to award the prize to Katarina Löffström was unanimous”, said Blickachsen founder and co-curator **Christian K. Scheffel** of the Blickachsen Foundation – on behalf, also, of **Elisabeth Millqvist** and **Mattias Givell**, joint directors of the Wanås Konst Sculpture Park in Sweden, and co-curators of Blickachsen 12, and **Peter Murray CBE**, director of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in the UK, as permanent external jury member.

“Open Source (16:9)”, Katarina Löffström’s site-specific contribution to **Blickachsen 12**, shimmers from afar like a giant screen between the trees by the Kurpark pond. Thousands of reflecting sequins hang from a net stretched over a more than five-metre wide aluminium frame in what is nowadays a standard 16:9 video aspect ratio. The sequins move in the wind, each reflecting a small piece of the surroundings, but from a distance they seem like constantly changing pixels on a screen – as if in an endless abstract film featuring the movement of the wind and the changing colours of the surrounding nature.

“Blickachsen has once more attracted huge critical acclaim and continues to make an important contribution to the European art calendar”, says **Peter Murray**. “The Blickachsen Sculpture Award has a special status and I am very pleased to congratulate Katarina Löffström on receiving the Blickachsen 12 Sculpture Award. Her ingenious use of materials and concern for site and location has resulted in a memorable and poetic installation which enhances our experience of art and nature.”

In her speech, **Elisabeth Millqvist** paid tribute to the artist’s work: “She is a Swedish artist with a long explorative practice that both challenges and fascinates the viewer. Her works are often poetic and elusive, she lets us make up our own narrative, but creates in her work the conditions for a changed mindset.”

Katarina Löffström was born in Falun, Sweden, in 1970. She went on to study Art in Stockholm and has visited and worked in a number of countries – and also lived in Germany for a year as artist-in-residence at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin. Today, she lives and works in Stockholm. Her videos, sculptures and installations have been shown internationally in solo exhibitions, and her works in the outside space have been installed in many places, particularly in her homeland Sweden.

“Open Source (16:9)”, and the **Blickachsen 12** exhibition in altogether six locations in the Rhine-Main region, can still be seen **until 6 October**.

Detailed **information** on Blickachsen 12 can be found at **www.blickachsen.com**.

We will be happy to supply **photographs** for media purposes on request

For further information please contact Lindinger + Schmid, Berlin, Art and Publicity Department, Viktoria Sommermann (tel. +49 - (0)30 - 857 449 250, sommermann@lindinger-schmid.de), or the press office of the Blickachsen Foundation, Sunita Scheffel, (+49 - (0)178 - 473 25 91, presse@blickachsen.de).