



## VIA Art Prize - Final three judges on jury panel announced

Frances Reynolds, gallerist Andrea Harrari and sculptor Fernando Casasempere have been announced as the final three judges on the panel for the prestigious VIA Arts Prize, now in its fifth edition. The annual prize is open to all UK based artists who submit an original work that celebrates and references Latin American, Spanish or Portuguese arts and culture.

The complete judging panel is:

- Andrea Harrari, Director of jaggedart
- Fernando Casasempere, Sculptor
- Frances Reynolds, Patron of the Arts
- James Nicholls, Chairman of Maddox Gallery Group
- Dr Sarah Demelo, Art Historian Curator of the Essex Collection of Art from Latin America
- Sofia Fan, Manager of Visual Arts at Itaú Cultural in Brazil
- Vanessa Carlos, Director of the Carlos/Ishikawa gallery

In parallel with a successful career in finances, Frances Reynolds has built, over decades, a prominent trajectory as a benefactor for contemporary art. Her curatorial eye is clearly influenced by her personal multinational background, which binds the United Kingdom, Spain, Argentina and Brazil. In addition to contributing, as a patron and advisor, to the constitution of some of the most significant collections in the world – such as those of MoMA and Tate – Reynolds has been active in promoting independent initiatives and the democratisation of visual arts, notably through Fundación Arte Viva in Europe and Inclusartiz Institute in Brazil, both founded and run by her. The two charitable organisations undertake a variety of projects, from educational programmes for public schools to world-class art exhibitions, aimed at bringing art closer to all sections of society and encouraging cultural exchange.

Andrea Harrari is currently the Director of jaggedart in Marylebone, which she co-founded in 2001. The gallery is renowned for its innovative works of art as artists are invited to use the space in a dynamic way, creating site-specific installations. Harrari is also one of the Founding Members of ARTE BA, the contemporary art fair of Buenos Aires, and has organised the event since its inception in 1995. Andrea has curated and co-ordinated a number of exhibitions in the major museums and galleries of Buenos Aires. For four years, she was the manager at the Raab Boukamel Gallery on Cork Street and in 2010 was appointed as the London Manager for PINTA UK, the Modern and Contemporary Latin American Art Show.

Chilean sculptor Fernando Casasempere's work explores and questions the relationship between art and the environment. He is profoundly inspired by Pre-Columbian art and architecture of Latin America, in particular the Chilean landscape but also the processes by which that landscape has been exploited. Casasempere has exhibited internationally including a solo exhibition Out of Sync at Somerset House in 2012 when he installed a monumental field of ceramic and steel flowers. The piece has now been permanently installed in the Atacama Desert in Chile. Casasempere's work features in international collections including the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Museu Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago where he is the first artist to be honoured with an exhibition throughout the entire museum.

The VIA Arts Prize invites all UK-based artists of any nationality to submit an original artwork inspired by Ibero-American arts and culture. Call for Entries is open until Monday 30 September. An exhibition of 30 shortlisted works will be held at the Embassy of Brazil in November. Prizes provided by Itaú, are awarded to the Jury's first (£5,000) and second (£2,000) choices. The VIA Arts Prize winner is also awarded a solo show at the Embassy of Brazil, running concurrently to the shortlisted artists' show in the subsequent year.

The prize is organised by the ACALASP (the Association of Cultural Attachés of Latin America, Spain and Portugal) and is hosted annually at the Embassy of Brazil in London. The initiative is sponsored by Itaú, and supported by People's Palace Projects (Queen Mary University of London) and Instituto Cervantes. The Call for Entries is open until 23:59 on Monday 30 September 2019 by filling out the submission form on the website [www.viaartsprize.org](http://www.viaartsprize.org).

All judges are available for interview and comment. For further information please contact Phoebe Ruffels, [phoebe.ruffels@damsonpr.com](mailto:phoebe.ruffels@damsonpr.com) or 020 7812 0645

Notes to Editors

## ABOUT ITAÚ

Itaú is the largest financial conglomerate in Latin America, with operations in 19 countries throughout the Americas, Asia and Europe. It is a universal bank with a range of services and products serving the most varied client profiles – both individuals and companies of all sizes, from major international groups to local micro-entrepreneurs. It has almost 50,000 ATMs and 5,000 full-service branches in Latin America. With the purpose of encouraging people's transformation power, Itaú is recognised for its governance practices and management, which is focused on the generation shared value to its employees, customers, shareholders and society.

Itaú BBA is the Wholesale and Investment division of Itaú, and the largest corporate and investment bank in Latin America. Itau BBA International offers wholesale, investment, and institutional treasury banking activities and services to institutional investors and clients, based out of headquarters in London and with offices in Paris, Madrid, Frankfurt, Lisbon and Dubai. Further information: [www.itaubba-en/](http://www.itaubba-en/)

## FRANCES REYNOLDS

Frances Reynolds founded Reynolds Ventures Ltd. in 2007, a boutique advisory service company, focusing on investments in Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. In her thirty-year career, Reynolds held positions in a range of multinational companies and in corporate advisory, notably as VP Latin America Sales at Warner Brothers and as VP at Orion Pictures. In 1992 she created Mega Distribuidora de Filmes, Brazil, a leading independent distributor of television rights for the Brazilian territory, including Buena Vista International (Disney).

Reynolds is the Founder and President of the Fundación Arte Viva in Europe and Inclusartiz Institute in Brazil, both non-profit organisations that promote cultural initiatives to bring art, culture and education closer to all sections of society. Mentioned projects range from educational programs for public schools and leading international art exhibitions. For example, a project commissioned by King Juan Carlos Spain 'Splendours of Spain: From Greco to Velazquez' commemorating Brazil's 500th anniversary as well as contemporary art.

Reynolds is also a Member of the Senior Advisory Board of the Brazil Institute-School of Global Affairs, Kings College, London, and member of the Instituto de Consejeros-Administradores, Madrid. Reynolds

holds a Honours Degree in Humanities with a Major in Art History at London City University/ Open University.

Reynold has been awarded:

- Brazil's Order of Cultural Merit from President Fernando Henrique Cardoso
- La Gran Cruz de Isabel la Catolica from King Juan Carlos of Spain.
- Premio de Exelencia de la Cultura, Comunidad de Madrid

Reynolds is a supporter of:

- International Council Member, MoMA, New York
- Patron and member of the Latin American Acquisition Committee, Tate Modern, London
- Patron of the Royal Academy of Arts, London
- Patron Chisenhale Gallery, London
- Council Member of the Serpentine Gallery, London
- Patron of Gassworks, London
- International Circle of the Pompidou Museum, Paris
- Board member of Capacete, Rio de Janeiro
- Board member of AAMAAC, Sao Paulo
- International Board of SP Biennial, Sao Paulo
- Intl Council of MASP, Sao Paulo
- ARCOMadrid Advisory Board, Spain
- Member of St James Society – Chatham House, London

#### ANDREA HARRARI

Andrea Harrari is currently the Director of jaggedart in Marylebone which she co-founded in 2001 with her business partner Janeen Haythornthwaite. The Gallery is renowned for its innovative works of art and although they work in traditional media, jaggedart artists use materials in innovative ways including books, maps, audio tape, cement, textiles and embroidery thread. Artists are invited to use the space in a dynamic way, creating site specific installations in the Gallery.

Harrari is also one of the Founding Members of ARTE BA, the contemporary art fair of Buenos Aires and has organised the event since its inception in 1995. Andrea has curated and co-ordinated a number of exhibitions in the major museums and galleries of Buenos Aires. In 1995 Andrea moved to London to take a Modern Art course at Christie's Education. Past experience includes the editorship of a contemporary art website and for four years she was the manager at the Raab Boukamel Gallery on Cork Street. In 2010 she was appointed as the London Manager for PINTA UK, the Modern and Contemporary Latin American Art Show.

#### FERNANDO CASASEMPERE

London based Fernando Casasepere is a Chilean sculptor working with ceramics, the traditional material of pottery, and his work explores ideas of landscape and the environment. Conceptually his use of earth/clay and his concern with nature and ecological issues connects him to artists associated with the Land or Earth Art movement, such as Robert Smithson and Richard Long, but Casasepere works out of a different cultural tradition, being profoundly inspired by the Pre-Columbian art and architecture of Latin America. He is inspired by the Chilean landscape but also the processes by which that landscape has been exploited. In particular, he has worked with copper tailings (or relave in Spanish), industrial waste materials produced by copper mining (copper being the principle export of Chile) to make work that explores ideas around ecology and geology and to introduce extraordinarily rich colours

and textures. Casasempere's work calls into question the relationship between art and the environment, between culture and the earth itself from which the sculptures are made. Although his work is predominantly abstract, much of it can be read topographically, almost as a document of the landscape from which the materials have been sourced. In 2012 Casasempere installed a monumental field of ceramic and steel flowers, *Out of Sync*, at Somerset House in London. That piece has now been permanently installed in the Atacama Desert in Chile.

Casasempere's work has been exhibited internationally since the 1980s. Recent solo exhibitions include *Natura Morta, Parafin*, London (2018); *Out of Sync*, Somerset House, London (2012); *Falla Ideologico*, Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Santiago (2012); and *Bricks and Mortar*, New Art Centre, Roche Court, Salisbury (2011). Recent group exhibitions include *The Precious Clay*, Museum of Royal Worcester, Worcester (2018); *Sculpture in the City*, London (2017); *Second Skin*, Frieze Sculpture Park, London (2016); and *Under the Forest*, Jerwood Foundation, Ragley Hall, Alcester (2007). Casasempere's work is in international collections including the Victoria & Albert Museum, London and the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago. In 2016 Casasempere mounted a major exhibition at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Santiago. He is the first artist to be honoured with an exhibition throughout the entire museum. Casasempere's forthcoming solo museum shows include *Casa América*, Madrid (2019) and the Museum of Fine Arts, San Diego (2020).