
PRESS RELEASE
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Julien Creuzet selected for BMW Art Journey 2021

Art Basel and BMW are delighted to present Julien Creuzet as the BMW Art Journey winner 2021. An international jury selected him unanimously from a shortlist of three artists represented by galleries who were originally selected for this year's Art Basel in Hong Kong. Julien Creuzet is represented by the gallery High Art, Paris.

For **Julien Creuzet**, a member of the Caribbean diaspora in Paris, the BMW Art Journey – the tenth in the series – will mark a return to his ancestral home, a place he calls “the heart of my imagination.” In a poetic journey that intertwines personal discovery with profound environmental concern and a generous spirit of sharing, he will center his travels around a geographically and culturally distinct region. In Martinique, he will work closely with a community of art students from Fort-de-France, as well as musicians and filmmakers. His plans include creating hybrid sculptures of Antillean fauna as well as plastic and industrial objects, in a gesture of circularity. In Guadeloupe, he will film underwater scenes as well as obtain aerial visuals with drones. Often neglected in the metropolitan imagination, the Antilles are not just homeland for Creuzet but a site inviting consideration of the legacies of colonialism, conflict, and marginalization. During his journey, Creuzet will meet with cultural actors and collect visual materials and music for a “Caribbean road movie” that merges fiction and documentary, augmented by poetry and 3-D art.

‘I am really excited to be the winner of the BMW Art Journey: It is a great chance to reconnect with the heart of my imagination and my Native land. This journey will allow me to collaborate with local artists, writers, poets, musicians, students and then setting up a real environment in Martinique,’ says Julien Creuzet.

Members of the international expert jury are **Claire Hsu**, Director, Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong; **Matthias Mühling**, Director, Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus und Kunstbau, Munich; **Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo**, President, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin; **Philip Tinari**, Director, UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing; and **Samson Young**, artist and winner of the first BMW Art Journey.

‘Julien Creuzet’s journey is not a trip to a distant and unknown destination, but rather a return to a familiar place – a place of family, youth, and education,’ the jury noted, reaching its unanimous decision. “The project rethinks mobility, the climate crisis, and societal shifts in the wake of Covid-19. Focusing on a single location, Creuzet underscores the importance of the local and of reconnecting with one’s roots. His journey combines histories with fantasies, and ancestral connections with cosmopolitanism. We were impressed by the generosity of his project, how it makes space for other artists – a gesture of care and humility that’s in keeping with our healing moment.’

In addition to Julien Creuzet, the shortlisted artists for the BMW Art Journey 2021 were: **Kelvin Kyun Kun Park** (represented by Vanguard Gallery, Shanghai) and **Alice Wang** (represented by Capsule Shanghai).

BMW has supported Art Basel's shows in Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong for many years. For further information about the artists and their projects, please visit: www.bmw-art-journey.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Julien Creuzet (represented by High Art, Paris)

Julien Creuzet (b.1986) lives and works in Montreuil, France. In his work he creates protean artworks incorporating poetry, music, sculpture, assemblage, film and animation. Evoking trans-oceanic postcolonial transactions in relation to multiple temporalities the artist places his own inherited past, present and future at the heart of his production. Eluding generalized narratives and cultural reductions, Creuzet's work often spot-lights anachronisms and social realities to construct objects of irreducibility. Recent solo exhibitions of the artist include Camden Arts Center, London (upcoming); Palais de Tokyo, Paris and Fondation d'entreprise Pernod Ricard, Paris. His work was on display at group exhibitions at Manifesta 13, Marseilles; Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt; Musée d'Art moderne de Paris and Centre Pompidou, Paris. Creuzet is currently nominated for the Prix Marcel Duchamp 2021.

About BMW Art Journey

Launched in 2015, the BMW Art Journey is a collaboration between Art Basel and BMW, created to recognize and support emerging artists worldwide. Since 2020, the circle of eligible artists has been broadened. It includes emerging and mid-career artists originally participating at Art Basel in Hong Kong represented not only by galleries in the Discoveries sector, but also by galleries that were founded no more than ten years ago. A judging panel comprised of internationally renowned experts meet first to select a shortlist three artists, who are then invited to submit proposals for a journey aimed to further develop their ideas and artistic work. The jury reconvenes to choose a winner from the three proposals.

Past winners of the BMW Art Journey include sound and performance artist **Samson Young** (presented by a.m. Space, Hong Kong at Art Basel's Hong Kong show in 2015), who represented Hong Kong at the 2017 Venice Biennale; German video artists **Henning Fehr and Philipp Rühr** (presented by Galerie Max Mayer, Dusseldorf at Art Basel's Miami Beach show in 2015); British artist **Abigail Reynolds** (presented by Rokeby, London at Art Basel's show in Hong Kong in 2016) as well as **Max Hooper Schneider** (presented by High Art, Paris at Art Basel's Miami Beach show in 2016), **Astha Butail** (presented by GALLERYSKY, New Delhi, Bangalore at Art Basel's Hong Kong show in 2017); **Jamal Cyrus** (presented by Inman Gallery, Houston at Art Basel's Miami Beach show in 2017); **Zac Langdon-Pole** (presented by Michael Lett, Auckland at Art Basel's show in Hong Kong in 2018), **Lu Yang** (represented by the gallery Société, Berlin at Art Basel Hong Kong 2019) and **Leelee Chan** (represented by Capsule Shanghai at Art Basel's Hong Kong show in 2021).

About BMW Group Cultural Engagement

For almost 50 years now, the BMW Group has initiated and engaged in over 100 cultural cooperations worldwide. The company places the main focus of its long-term commitment on contemporary and modern art, classical music and jazz as well as architecture and design. In 1972, three large-scale paintings were created by the artist Gerhard Richter specifically for the foyer of the BMW Group's Munich headquarters. Since then, artists such as Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons, Daniel Barenboim, Jonas Kaufmann and architect Zaha Hadid have co-operated with BMW. In 2016 and 2017, female artist Cao Fei from China and American John Baldessari created the next two vehicles for the BMW Art Car Collection. Besides co-initiatives, such as BMW Tate Live, the BMW Art Journey and the "Opera for All" concerts in Berlin, Munich, Moscow and London, the company also

partners with leading museums and art fairs as well as orchestras and opera houses around the world. The BMW Group takes absolute creative freedom in all its cultural activities – as this initiative is as essential for producing groundbreaking artistic work as it is for major innovations in a successful business. Further information: www.bmwgroup.com/culture and www.bmwgroup.com/culture/overview

About Art Basel

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. Art Basel's engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through new digital platforms and a number of new initiatives such as The Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report and The BMW Art Journey. Art Basel's Global Media Partner is The Financial Times. For further information, please visit artbasel.com.

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