

**Mutina for Art** is pleased to announce artist **Liz Larner** (Sacramento, 1960) as **recipient** of the award **This Is Not a Prize 2018**.

This Is Not a Prize is a recognition aimed at supporting the work of international artists in a flexible and innovative manner.

The annual award offered by **Mutina** is not a fixed prize but adapts to the need of the selected artist by sustaining one of his/her future projects: an exhibition, a collaboration with an international institution, a publication or the production of a new work.

For the second year, the award is hosted at **FIAC - Foire Internationale d'Art Contemporain** Paris, thanks to Mutina's collaboration with the fair.

**Liz Larner** was chosen by a committee composed by Daniel Baumann (Director, Kunsthalle Zurich), Sarah Cosulich (Curator, Mutina For Art), Konstantin Grcic (Designer), Massimo Orsini (CEO Mutina) and Francesca Taroni (Editor in Chief, Living Magazine Italy).

The committee has awarded Californian artist **Liz Larner** for her unique sculptural language which combines an abstract approach with an interest for both formalism and the emotional. Larner practices the ancient art of the sculptor: volumes interlace with space and colour, material shape bodies and the way viewers encounter them. While being close to an idea of classicism, her sculptures always bring a Californian landscape into play, a sense for light and lightness, but also for repetition, fragile balance, and elusiveness. As one of the members of the committee said: "Her art is both elegant and brutal". Throughout the last thirty years, Larner has challenged our idea of sculpture and contributed to our understanding of bodies in space.

Liz Larner was **awarded at a ceremony** on the Balcon d'Honneur of the **Grand Palais** during the **opening of FIAC**, in the presence of the committee members and the fair director Jennifer Flay.

She will receive a first contribution of euros 5.000 which will be followed by the financial support to one of her future projects.

Liz Larner is represented at FIAC by Regen Projects, Los Angeles and Max Hetzler, Berlin.

Winner of This Is Not a Prize 2017 – awarded at FIAC – was German photographer Jochen Lempert, represented by ProjecteSD gallery. Lempert staged a solo exhibition at MUT in Fiorano in March-July 2018.

Winner of This Is Not a Prize 2016 – awarded at Artissima – was artist Giorgio Andreotta Calò. The recognition successively took shape in Mutina's support of his project for the Italian Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017.

**This Is Not a Prize** is an initiative of the wider **Mutina for Art** project which includes also MUT – a dedicated exhibition space within the company's headquarters in Fiorano – and Dialogue - a program of international collaborations with artists, galleries and institutions.

On the occasion of the collaboration between Mutina and FIAC, the set up of the Balcon d'Honneur will be designed by designer Konstantin Grcic featuring NUMI, the ceramic collection he recently designed for Mutina, and Stool-Tool, his furniture designed for Vitra.

## LIZ LARNER

Liz Larner (b. 1960 Sacramento, California) attended the *California Institute of the Arts*, where she received a *Bachelor of Fine Arts* degree in 1985. Larner's work explores and extends the conditions and possibilities of sculpture. Her works are informed by the relationship between object, viewer, and their surroundings as well as a deep interest in a wide array of materials and their particular qualities. She experiments with abstract sculpture made in fiberglass, crystals, paper, clay, aluminum, steel, rubber, epoxy, mirror, cloth, and even bacteria. An inventor of new forms, Larner's sculptures defy easy description by design. Larner has been the subject of numerous solo museum exhibitions, including the Aspen Art Museum, Aspen (2016); Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago (2015); *Two or Three or Something: Maria Lassnig, Liz Larner*, Kunsthaus Graz, Graz (2006); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2001-02); MAK, Austrian Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna (1998); and Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (1997). She has been commissioned for multiple public artworks including the Byron G Rogers Federal Building and Courthouse Plaza, Denver (2015); University of California, San Francisco, Mission Bay Project, San Francisco (2003); and the Riverside Pedestrian Bridge at Walt Disney Studios, Burbank (2000).

She has been the recipient of many awards, including the *Nancy Graves Foundation Grant* (2014); the Pacific Design Center *Stars of Design Award* (2005); Smithsonian American Art Museum *Lucelia Artist Award* (2002); and the *Guggenheim Fellowship* (1999).

Work by the artist is held in prominent international collections, including Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; La Colección Jumex, Mexico City; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; among others.

She lives and works in Los Angeles.

## ABOUT MUTINA FOR ART

Mutina for Art is an ambitious and varied project that includes MUT, a dedicated exhibition space within the company headquarters, *This Is Not a Prize*, an important prize awarded annually, and *Dialogue*, a series of collaborations with artists, galleries and partners coming from various creative and with international art institutions. Sensitivity to form, desire for innovation and willingness to incorporate the most diverse visual stimulation in today's world have been part of the Mutina mission since its inception, and now take the form of a new program with contemporary art at its core. The appointment of the curator Sarah Cosulich in Mutina coincides with the aim of the company to make its commitment to contemporary art structured and articulated in order to make it a source of in vence, experience, and above all a territory of exchange.

## ABOUT MUTINA

Mutina is a new way of looking at ceramics no longer as a simple cladding, but as an interior design project. Mutina is a project auteur that combines technology, the handmade and experimentation to overcome the limits of matter and through essential research produces a high quality product. Together with designers such as Patricia Urquiola, Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Tokujin Yoshioka, Yael Mer and Shay Alkalay di Raw Edges, Inga Sempè, Konstantin Grcic and Hella Jongerius, Mutina dresses the architecture like a second skin.

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

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