

THIS IS NOT A PRIZE 4

Mutina for Art is pleased to announce that artist **Shimabuku** (Kobe, Japan 1969) has been awarded the **This Is Not a Prize 2019**.

This Is Not a Prize is not merely an annual award but also **Mutina's commitment to support a future project of the selected artist**: from an exhibition to a collaboration with an international institution, to a publication or the production of a new artwork.

For each edition of the award, the granted artist develops together with Mutina the ideal form which the support should take. **The flexibility of this process** allows for an unexpected and surprising exchange with the artist, as well as opening the way to collaborations with international curators and institutions.

Shimabuku has been selected by a commission composed of **Bart Van der Heide** (curator and director, Museion Bolzano), **Sarah Cosulich** (curator, Mutina for Art), **Barber & Osgerby** (designers), **Ambra Medda** (design expert and journalist), and **Massimo Orsini** (CEO of Mutina and collector).

The commission awarded **This Is Not a Prize 2019** to **Shimabuku** for the unique character of his artistic language and his multi-faceted and generous imaginary that combines lightness and depth. Shimabuku's works are poetic encounters, ironic and unexpected situations that overturn our perception of the world and transport viewers into a new reality of allusion, surprise and enchantment.

The award This Is Not a Prize 2019 was presented to Shimabuku at the Mutina company headquarters designed by Angelo Mangiarotti, in the presence of the commission and the galleries Air De Paris from Paris and Zero from Milan, which represent the artist.

This Is Not a Prize has reached its fourth edition and carries on Mutina's aim to **sustain contemporary languages and expressions** with a formula that does not limit the artist, but opens the way for **various forms of support**. Since 2016 one artist has been selected and supported each year by the Mutina for Art project.

The winner of This Is Not a Prize 2018 – assigned during FIAC Paris – was the American artist **Liz Larner**. Mutina sustains the artist for her exhibition at the Kunsthalle Zurich in June 2020.

This Is Not a Prize 2017 – assigned during FIAC Paris – was presented to the German photographer **Jochen Lempert**, who held a solo show in the MUT exhibition space from March to July 2018.

The recipient of This Is Not a Prize 2016 – awarded during Artissima – was the artist **Giorgio Andreotta Calò**. The award took concrete form with 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 that is part of the wider project **Mutina for Art**, which also includes **MUT** - the exhibition space at the company headquarters in Fiorano - and **Dialogue** - a program of international collaborations with artists, galleries and institutions.

ABOUT SHIMABUKU

Born in Kobe, Japan in 1969 and residing in Osaka, as a child Shimabuku wanted to be a poet or a tour guide. With degrees from Osaka College of Art and the San Francisco Art Institute, Shimabuku is an artist-traveler who, through surprising encounters and detours, challenges the boundaries between reality and imagination. His installations, sculptures, drawings, writings, photographs and videos stem from experiences, stories and anecdotes in which he interacts with the living world – with people, animals and plants – or with the mineral world. Unpredictable and at times absurd, Shimabuku's projects create new situations marked by simple actions or events based on an economy of exchange, of humanity, listening and empathy.

Shimabuku's work has been shown in many solo exhibitions, including shows at Kunsthalle Bern (2014), Vancouver Contemporary Art Gallery (2014), Ikon Gallery Birmingham (2013), Centre International d'Art et du Paysage de l'Île de Vassivière (2011) and Watari Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo (2008). He has taken part in group exhibitions at the Venice Biennale (2017), Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris (2014), Lyon Biennale (2007), Sharjah Biennial (2013), Hayward Gallery London (2011) and the São Paulo Biennial (2006).

ABOUT MUTINA FOR ART

Mutina for Art is a multi-faceted project that includes **MUT** - an exhibition space inside the Mutina headquarters - **This Is Not a Prize** - an important annual award - and **Dialogue** - a series of collaborations with artists, galleries and other partners from various international art institutions and organizations. Sensitivity to form, desire for innovation and the intent of incorporating the creative energies of the present: these are the factors that have immediately set the tone of Mutina's mission, and now take shape in a program that makes contemporary art its central focus. The presence of Sarah Cosulich as curator of the Mutina project reflects the company's aim of approaching art in a concrete, structured way, making it a source of innovation, stimuli and experience.

ABOUT MUTINA

A company with an accent on excellence, Mutina embodies an original way of interpreting ceramics not just as simple facings, but as a true project of interior design. A signature project that combines technology and craftsmanship, experimentation to reach beyond the limits of the material and the indispensable research to achieve the highest production quality. Together with the designers Patricia Urquiola, Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Tokujin Yoshioka, Yael Mer and Shay Alkalay of Raw Edges, Inga Sempé, Konstantin Grcic, and Hella Jongerius, Mutina works by sharing the same passions and a unique approach to the product based on continuous research. The company also moves forward with a series of special projects in collaboration with various players from the world of art and design, including: the interior design firm OEO Studio, master designer Gennaro Avallone and artist-designer Nathalie Du Pasquier.

Press contacts

Bianca Bertolissi
T. +39 328 6818414
press@mutina.it

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