

THIS IS NOT A PRIZE 2021: SHIRANA SHAHBAZI

Mutina for Art is pleased to announce that **This Is Not a Prize 2021** award has been assigned to artist **Shirana Shahbazi** (Tehran, 1974).

This Is Not a Prize is not just 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, a publication or the production of a new artwork.

Shirana Shahbazi has been selected by the Mutina team, by its CEO **Massimo Orsini** and by the curator of Mutina for Art **Sarah Cosulich**, for the vast multidisciplinary territory to which her photographic research taps into. **This Is Not a Prize 2021** recognizes **Shahbazi's** ability to constantly rethink the image and its implications through unsettling compositional devices.

Shirana Shahbazi's photographs are intriguing, ambiguous and challenging of the space they are interacting with. She portrays still-lives informed by the history of art, objects which she positions on pedestals and displays, but also portraits and landscapes that she often mixes in her exhibitions developing a single interconnected ensemble. All subjects, rigorously captured with an analogue technique, confront contemporary imageries and the notions of reality and illusion.

Shahbazi is interested in boundaries: between figuration and abstraction, bidimensionality and three-dimensionality, but also between the edge of the image and the area of perception. Design, architecture, fashion, graphics or display are at the bases of her photographic research which, though a great understanding of color and composition, becomes a way to speak about representation and about the act of looking.

THE OTHER PROTAGONISTS OF THIS IS NOT A PRIZE

In 2020 This Is Not a Prize was assigned to **Silke Otto-Knapp**, who will present a special project at Casa Mutina Milano in the fall 2022.

In 2019 This Is Not a Prize was assigned to artist **Shimabuku**, whose installation will be unveiled at Mutina's headquarters in 2022.

In 2018 This Is Not a Prize was assigned to artist **Liz Larner**, whose solo exhibition at Kunsthalle Zurich in June 2022 will be sustained by Mutina.

In 2017 This Is Not a Prize was assigned to artist **Jochen Lempert**, who held a solo show in the MUT exhibition space in 2018.

In 2016 This Is Not a Prize was assigned to artist **Giorgio Andreotta Calò**. The recognition took form 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 that is part of the wider project **Mutina for Art**, which also includes **MUT** – an exhibition space at the company headquarters in Fiorano and a project space at **Casa Mutina Milano** – and **Dialogue** – a program of international collaborations with artists, galleries and institutions.

SHIRANA SHAHBAZI

Born 1974 in Tehran, Shirana Shahbazi's lives and works in Zurich. She studied at Dortmund University and at Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst, Zurich.

Shirana Shahbazi's work is represented in the collections of important institutions worldwide, such as: Centre Pompidou, Paris; Fotomuseum Winterthur; Guggenheim Museum, New York; Kunstmuseum Zürich; Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Tate Modern, London; National Museum of Photography, Copenhagen; Sprengel Museum, Hannover.

Important solo exhibitions have been presented at (selection): Kunsthaus Hamburg (2018); Museum Fotogalleriet, Oslo (2017); Camera Austria, Graz (2016) and Kunsthalle, Bern (2014), New Museum, New York, Fotomuseum Winterthur (2011), Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2009), Barbican Art Gallery, London (2008).

Recent group exhibitions include: "Smoke and Mirrors", Guggenheim Museum Bilbao (2021) and Kunsthaus Zürich (2020); "Niko Pirosmani", Fondation Vincent Van Gogh, Arles (2019); "Swiss Pavilion: House Tour", 16th International Architecture Biennale, Venice (2018) and "The Other and Me", Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah (2014).

MUTINA FOR ART

Mutina for Art is a project dedicated to contemporary art which originates at MUT, a dedicated exhibition space within Mutina Headquarters in Fiorano Modenese, and that from 2021 it develops also in the space of Casa Mutina Milan. Besides a regular programme of solo and group shows, the Mutina for Art initiative comprises also the award This is Not a Prize, assigned annually in the support of an international artist, and Dialogue, a series of collaboration projects with artists, galleries and institutions worldwide.

ABOUT MUTINA

A company of excellence, Mutina represents a new way of looking at ceramic no longer simply as tiles but as an interior design project in its own right. A designer's project that combines technology and craftsmanship, experimentation to overcome any limits posed by materials and essential research into the high quality of the product. Mutina works together with designers Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby, Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, Nathalie Du Pasquier, Konstantin Grcic, Hella Jongerius, Laboratorio Avallone, OEO Studio, Raw Edges, Inga Sempé, Patricia Urquiola and Tokujin Yoshioka, sharing the same passions and a unique approach to the product, based on continuous research.

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