

【Press Release】

Oct. 15, 2022
Benesse Holdings, Inc.
Representative Director and President CEO
Hitoshi Kobayashi

The 13th Benesse Prize Awarded to Singapore Biennale 2022 Artist Haegue Yang



Installation view of Haegue Yang's *The Hybrid Intermediates – Flourishing Electrophorus Duo* (*Sonic Intermediate – Hairy Carbonous Dweller* and *The Randing Intermediate – Furless Uncolored Dweller*) (2022), as part of Singapore Biennale 2022 named *Natasha*.
Image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum.

Singapore, Naoshima, Oct. 15, 2022

The 13th Benesse Prize was awarded to Haegue Yang of South Korea by Benesse Holdings, Inc. (“Benesse”) and the Singapore Art Museum (SAM). The award ceremony was held at the Singapore Art Museum on Oct 15th, 2022. The 13th Benesse Prize was presented in collaboration with SAM, the organizer of Singapore Biennale 2022. The prize recognizes an artist whose work embodies an experimental and critical spirit and who has the potential to create works that relate to Benesse’s philosophy of “well-being”. The winner of the 13th Benesse Prize was selected by a panel of international jury members. The jury shortlisted 5 Singapore Biennale artists: Pratchaya Phinthong (Thailand), Walid Raad (Lebanon), Sawangwongse Yawnghwe (Myanmar) Araya Rasdjarmreansook (Thailand) and Haegue Yang. Haegue Yang was ultimately selected as the winner of the 13th Benesse Prize.

Comments by Selection of International Jury

Member of jury included: **Joselina Cruz** (Philippines), Director / Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD) Manila; **Bose Krishnamachari** (India), Artist & Curator/President, Kochi Biennale Foundation & Biennale Director, Kochi-Muziris Biennale; **Alia Swastika** (Indonesia), Director, Jogja Biennale Foundation; **Eugene Tan** (Singapore), Director, Singapore Art Museum & National Gallery Singapore; and **Akiko Miki**; Head of the Jury (Japan), International Artistic Director, Benesse Art Site Naoshima

“The jury is delighted to award the Benesse Prize to Haegue Yang whose practice interweaves cross-cultural knowledge, a moving regard for materiality and tradition, through a playful visual language. Yang has consistently experimented with form and has challenged the known orientations and functions of materials to create new experiences and aesthetics. Yang works collaboratively with local artisans to produce various sculptural installations, informed by interdisciplinary approaches including architecture, design, sound and performance to the objects she creates. We honour her approaches and her courage to experiment freely and continue to produce in new, surprising ways. We feel Haegue’s ability to create something truly special, and believe her project will be a significant addition to the already illustrious works that have found their home on the island of Naoshima.”

[For more information regarding to publishing or press] Benesse Art Site Naoshima

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About the 13th Benesse Prize Winner: Haegue Yang

Haegue Yang (b. 1971) is Professor of Fine Arts at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main. Yang's practice spans a wide range of media, from paper collage to performative sculpture and large-scale installations, often featuring everyday objects, in addition to labor-intensive woven sculptures. Articulated in an abstract visual vocabulary, her anthropomorphic Intermediates sculptures often play with the notion of 'the folk' being a cultural idea, while also attempting to transcend it as being a mere tradition of specific cultures. Her multisensory environments made of venetian blinds suggest uncontrollable and fleeting connotations of time, place, figures, and experiences that connect us in this non-sharable field of perception. She currently lives and works in Berlin and Seoul.

About the Benesse Prize

The Benesse Prize was established in 1995 when Fukutake Publishing Co., Ltd. changed its corporate name to Benesse Corporation, and it was first awarded at the Venice Biennale in the same year. It was created to recognize the artistic endeavours of outstanding artists and support those who embody the corporate philosophy of the Benesse Group, which is "Well-Being."

Since the 11th Benesse Prize (2016), the Benesse Prize has shifted its focus to Asia, and has been presented to artists participating in the Singapore Biennale in collaboration with Singapore Art Museum.

In addition to a cash prize of JPY 3 million, the winning artist(s) receives a commission to create an artwork to be exhibited at Benesse Art Site Naoshima, Japan, or the opportunity to have their works collected at the Site.

Benesse Art Site Naoshima and SAM will continue the partnership with a joint exhibition on the Benesse Prize at the Singapore Biennale in Naoshima in 2024.

Appendix:**Past Benesse Prize Winners**

- 1st Benesse Prize (1995): Cai Guo-Qiang (China)
- 2nd Benesse Prize (1997): Alexandros Psychoulis (Greece)
- 3rd Benesse Prize (1999): Olafur Eliasson (Iceland, Denmark)
- 4th Benesse Prize (2001): Janet Cardiff & George Bures Miller (Canada)
- 5th Benesse Prize (2003): Rirkrit Tiravanija (Thailand)
- 6th Benesse Prize (2005): Tacita Dean (UK)
- 7th Benesse Prize (2007): Adel Abdessemed (Algeria, France)
- 8th Benesse Prize (2009): Hans-Peter Feldmann (Germany)
- 9th Benesse Prize (2011): Adrian Villar Rojas (Argentina)
- 10th Benesse Prize (2013): Anri Sala (Albania, France)
- 11th Benesse Prize (2016): Pannaphan Yodmanee (Thailand), Soichiro Fukutake Prize: Zulkifl Mahmod (Singapore)
- 12th Benesse Prize (2019): Amanda Heng (Singapore)

* The 1st through 10th Benesse Prizes were hosted by the Venice Biennale. (The 2nd Benesse Prize was hosted collaboratively.)

* Since the 11th Benesse Prize (2016), Benesse Prize has been hosted by the Singapore Biennale. (collaborately with SAM.)

About Benesse Art Site Naoshima

Benesse Art Site Naoshima is the collective name for all art-related activities conducted by Benesse Holdings, Inc. and Fukutake Foundation on the islands of Naoshima and Teshima in Kagawa Prefecture and on Inujima island in Okayama Prefecture. Our fundamental aim is to create significant spaces by bringing contemporary art and architecture in resonance with the pristine nature of the Seto Inland Sea, a landscape with a rich cultural and historical fabric. Through contacts with art and nature, sceneries and inhabitants of the Seto Inland Sea region, we seek to inspire visitors to reflect on the meaning of Benesse's motto, Well-Being. In all our ongoing activities, we are committed to foster a relationship of mutual growth between art and the region, aiming to make a positive contribution to the local communities.

To learn more, visit <https://www.benesse-artsite.jp/en>

About Benesse Holdings, Inc.

Guided by the corporate philosophy, "Benesse = Well-Being", the Benesse Group conducts business in the fields of education, language/global leadership training, lifestyles, and senior/nursing care, helping every customer to nurture their desire to learn and to solve problems throughout their lives. Group companies include Benesse Corporation which runs Shinkenzenji: correspondence courses for children from preschool to high-school ages, Shinken Simulated Exams and student pocketbooks; Udemy, one of the world's biggest video learning platforms as the Japanese partner: Benesse Style Care Co., Ltd., Japan's leading operator of senior and nursing homes. Benesse Holdings, Inc. has been working on community development utilizing art for more than 30 years at Benesse Art Site Naoshima, together with Fukutake Foundation. Benesse Art Site Naoshima and the Benesse Prize are activities consistent with the Benesse Group's sustainability vision and they will contribute to create a sustainable future.

To learn more, visit <https://www.benesse-hd.co.jp/en/>

About the Singapore Biennale 2022

visit <https://www.singaporebiennale.org>

About the Singapore Art Museum

Singapore Art Museum opened in 1996 as the first art museum in Singapore located in the cultural district of Singapore. Known as SAM, the museum presents contemporary art from a Southeast Asian perspective for artists, art lovers and the art curious in multiple venues across the island, including a new venue in the historic port area of Tanjong Pagar.

The museum is building one of the world's most important public collections of Southeast Asian contemporary art, with the aim of connecting the art and the artists to the public and future generations through exhibitions and programmes. SAM is working towards a humane and sustainable future by committing to responsible practices within its processes.

To find out more, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg.

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