



**PRESS RELEASE**

**12 April 2024**

# **Henrike Grohs Art Award**

## **Henrike Grohs Art Award 2024: Winner Announcement Kitso Lynn Lelliott receives Henrike Grohs Art Award 2024**

**Kitso Lynn Lelliott** (Botswana) is the fourth recipient of the Henrike Grohs Art Award, conceived by the Goethe-Institut and Grohs family. She will be awarded with a 20 000€ cash prize and 10 000€ towards a publication of her work.

The runners-up of the award, **Frederick Ebenezer Okai** (Ghana) and **Wambui Kamiru Collymore** (Kenya) will each receive a cash prize of 5 000€. Congratulations to all three winners!

The 2024 jury, who was made up of **Marie Helene Pereira** (senior curator, Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin, Germany), **Meriem Berrada** (artistic director, MACAAL in Marrakech, Morocco) and **Tandazani Dhlakama** (curator at Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art in Cape Town, South Africa), comment on their choice:

“As the jury, we found ourselves drawn to artists thinking about personal collective histories; making work that expands and allows the viewer to experience different contexts in new and interesting ways.

A common thread we found in the work of the selected artists is a robust research component that serves as the foundation for each artist’s work. We were impressed by the process of how the artists translate meaning from their personal contexts, to research and ultimately to artworks that get presented to various publics. The works refer to a lived experience and call for an engagement with different bodies, including the body of the viewer.

We recognise the artists’ strong commitment to re-anchoring knowledges beyond the conventional academic sphere. There is a notable effort to look back in order to move

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forward, finding anchors in different streams of existence. Frederick, Kitso and Wambui have demonstrated a keen awareness of their artistic identity and the power to navigate diverse influences.

Kitso's work, in particular, resonated with us for its articulation of disobedience and disruption. There is a firm affirmation of the necessity to look beyond traditional references to colonial powers. Notably, in considering Kitso's work, we view it not as a final achievement but as a constant state of becoming—a metaphor for the artist herself. Kitso embodies a perpetual reinvention, eschewing the notion of a finished work in favour of one that exists and re-exists, signifying a continuous and evolving artistic journey. We are thrilled to announce Kitso Lynn Lelliott as the winner of the 2024 Henrike Grohs Art Award.”

Johannes Ebert, Secretary General of the Goethe-Institut, congratulates the winners and notes: “The Henrike Grohs Art Prize, in honour of its namesake, promotes the principles and values of international cultural exchange as understood by the Goethe-Institut and stands as a beacon for the recognition and support of outstanding artistic talent. For the fourth edition of the award, 690 applications from 40 African countries have been submitted, more than ever before. I sincerely congratulate the main winner Kitso Lynn Lelliott from Botswana, who has captured the hearts and minds of our esteemed jury members with exceptional talent and creativity, and the two deserving runners-up Wambui Kamiru Collymore from Kenya and Frederick Ebenezer Okai from Ghana.”

Watch video profiles of the top 3 artists here: [www.henrikegrohsartaward.africa](http://www.henrikegrohsartaward.africa)

Read about the top 21 shortlisted artists [here](#).

### **Contacts**

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### **Social media**

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### **About the Goethe-Institut**

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The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide.

Its mandate is to promote the study of German abroad and to encourage international cultural exchange. Today it is represented in 98 countries and has some 3,300 employees. It contributes widely to the promotion of artists, ideas and works. Supporting the local cultural scenes and strengthening pan-African dialogue through the arts are part of its mission on the African continent, where it operates 20 institutes in Abidjan, Accra, Addis Ababa, Alexandria, Cairo, Casablanca, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Johannesburg, Khartoum, Kigali, Lagos, Lomé, Luanda, Nairobi, Ouagadougou, Rabat, Tunis, Windhoek and Yaoundé, as well as 2 liaison offices in Algiers and Kinshasa.

### **About Henrike Grohs**

Henrike Grohs studied ethnology and was Head of the Goethe-Institut in Abidjan from 2013–2016. She co-founded the project Next - Intercultural Projects at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin. Between 2002 and 2009, she worked as Project Manager in the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra's Education programme. In 2009, she was appointed Advisor on Culture and Development at the Goethe-Institut in South Africa. Henrike Grohs passed away at the age of 51 in a terrorist attack in Côte d'Ivoire in March 2016 along with seventeen other people.

### **About Kitso Lynn Lelliott**

Kitso Lynn Lelliott's practice moves between video installation, film and writing. She is preoccupied with enunciations from spaces beyond epistemic power and the crisis such epistemically disobedient articulations cause to hegemony. Her work interrogates the 'real' as it is shaped through contesting epistemologies, their narratives and the form these took over the Atlantic during the formative episode that shaped the modern age. Her work is an enactment of enunciating from elision and between historically subjugated subjectivities, privileging South-South relations in relation to yet imaginatively and epistemologically unmediated by the Global North. In 2017 she was laureate of the Iwalewaha art award and was a featured guest artist at The Flaherty Seminar 2018. In 2019 Lelliott won the NIHSS award for best visual arts. She was with the CHR until 2022 when she took up a senior lectureship with the University of the Witwatersrand.

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