AJF ART JEWELRY FORUM

2018 Munich Jewelry Week Recap

Art Jewelry Forum's Activities during Munich Jewelry Week

Introduction

Every Munich Jewelry Week (MJW) is an overwhelming array of art jewelry on display and this year was no different with over 100 exhibitions throughout the city in addition to the anchor events at the Internationale Handwerksmesse (IHM). AJF hosted a variety of events during MJW to take time to **think about jewelry** in an event focused on looking at jewelry. This year, we partnered with PLATINA to present the five finalists of the 2018 AJF Artists Award, collaborated with Galerie Handwerk to provide two panels, teamed up with IHM to announce the winner of the 2018 Artist Award from the main stage, and hosted a member appreciation dinner at a new restaurant.









All photos: Susan Cummins









AJF in Conversation … COLLECTING

Topic: The Collector's Responsibility
Moderator: Toni Greenbaum
Panelists: Susan Cummins, Jeroen Redel, Catherine Rose, and Stephanie Schuitemaker

The panel was called “The Collector's Responsibility.” With the help of Susan Cummins, Jeroen Redel, Catherine Rose, and Stephanie Schuitemaker, we investigated how the collector influences the development of the art jewelry field.

Attendance

- Ticket price: $10
- 40 tickets pre-sold
- Total guests: approx. 75

AJF in Conversation … WRITING

Topic: The Writer's Responsibility
Moderator: Bella Neyman
Panelists: Ilaria Ruggiero, Urmas Lüüs, Katia Rabey, Astrid Ubbink

How can we encourage writers to take on contemporary jewelry? Should artists take the lead? And are we afraid of critical discourse? The field is focused on growing its collector base, but writers can be our greatest advocates, the link between our insular community and the greater world. The four panelists explained what prompted them to answer AJF’s Open Call, and other pressing questions.

Attendance

- Ticket price: $10
- 55 tickets pre-sold
- Total guests: approx. 85

All photos: Ginta Grube



AJF Member Appreciation Dinner

This year, the dinner was hosted at a new restaurant, Kuffler Bar and Grill. With rare positive reviews about the main course--a jerk chicken with sweet potato fries and coleslaw, a more expansive seating arrangement, and a beautiful atmosphere in a private room, this restaurant allowed for conversation among AJF members, which is one of the purposes of the dinner.

Another function of the event was to recognize the recently announced winner of the 2018 AJF Artist Award, Bifei Cao, from China, and allow him to connect with AJF members from around the world. It was noted that there was a wide range of members in attendance who reflected the diversity of AJF's membership including artists, gallerists, writers, art historians, museum and independent curators, and enthusiasts + collectors. The other purpose of the dinner was to recognize the contributions of everyone in attendance in making AJF a reality. It's an important time to come together to thank our members for their support.

Attendance

- Ticket price: $125
- 37 tickets pre-sold
- Total guests: 40







Photos: Susan Cummins

AJF Artist Award Presentation

For the past three years, PLATINA has generously offered AJF not only booth space to present the five Artist Award finalists, but has also donated of a portion of any proceeds back to AJF. The five finalists were all present at the event and we were able to get a picture of all of us together--from left to right: Jelizaveta Suska, Corrina Goutos, Aurelie Guillaume, Rebekah Frank, Bifei Cao, and Karin Roy Andersson.





Photos courtesy of Sofia Björkman and Susan Cummins



AJF Artist Award Announcement

Bifei Cao was announced as the 2018 Artist Award winner on Saturday, March 10, from the Internationale Handwerksmesse main stage. You can read the full press release here.

If you want to hear him express his joy through his tears, listen through this Facebook link. Bifei was educated in China, the United States, and Australia, as well as the Netherlands and Germany--a truly international artist. You can also see a slideshow of his award-winning work on AJF's Facebook page.

The artist award winner and finalists are currently being shown in Sweden, and are also in talks about exhibition in China. It turns out that Bifei Cao has just opened a jewelry gallery there and extended the invitation to all the finalists to show there--being an AJF Artist Award finalist definitely takes you places.





Photos courtesy of Sieraad.

Special thanks to all of our members who make exciting events like these a reality through their membership. Even if you aren't able to attend every event that AJF does, you are part of all that AJF does in spirit.

If you are interested in becoming a member of AJF, we encourage you to JOIN.