



Press Release
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Trieste, 10 April 2024

Trieste Contemporanea has launched in 2024 the first edition of the Young Art Critic Award Trieste Contemporanea intended to be given, upon vote by audience, for the best speech delivered at the 11th CEI Forum for Contemporary Art Curators by one of the young European finalists of the Award.

The jury of the Young Art Critic Award Trieste Contemporanea met, in an extraordinary session this morning, 10 April 2024 at 8:00, as soon as we received from Slovenian friends information about young selected finalist Dušan Josip Smodej – information of which we were not aware.

Although the review sent by the candidate was selected for the good critical quality of the text, this additional information led the jury to reconsider the opportunity to include said young curator among the finalists who, as per the rules of the Call, should then join professional speakers at the Venice meeting and benefit from exchanges with colleagues and professionals present at the Forum.

Precisely because of the 2024 theme and its importance and ethical sensitivity, around which the 2024 convenor has gathered a group of very authoritative speakers, the jury made its final decision to exclude this young curator from the shortlist of Award finalists and, therefore, he will not be a 2024 Forum's speaker.

We consider a petition by 388 Slovenian art professionals requesting the exclusion, received late in the morning today and promoted by the Slovenian and Foreign Cultural Workers and Professionals, as a precise endorsement regarding the correctness of the Award jury final decision and the one by Trieste Contemporanea.

Trieste Contemporanea apologizes for what happened. And we hope that this candidacy issue that has been raised will be an incentive to the young generations of curators to build the ethical agencies that the world of contemporary art needs more than ever today, and that is exactly the central topic of our next discussion in Venice: *The Agencies We Need*.

The Forum will take place as scheduled at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice on 19 April 2024.

See all information at our website page: https://www.triestecontemporanea.it/en/bando/11th-cei-venice-forum_eng/

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