**Boston Gallacher wins Piket Art Prize 2020**

This week it was announced that the Scottish dancer **Boston Gallacher** (Glasgow 1996) had won the Piket Art Prize 2020 in the Dance category. The Piket Art Prizes are an annual prize for three exceptional young artists in the fields of painting, dance, and performing arts, who have come to fruition in, or are actively contributing to the artistic climate of the Dutch city of The Hague. Each of them receives a specially commissioned sculpture and a cash prize of 8,000 Euros.

**Jury report**

In their report the Dance category jury stated the following (*please note that Boston Gallacher see themself as a non-binary person and would, for this reason, prefer to be referred to as ‘they/their’ instead of ‘he/him’*):

When the jury nominated Boston Gallacher for the first time, two years ago, the nomination was based on the promises that Boston’s undeniable talent carried. But since then Boston went through a spectacular development and fulfilled these promises in every respect. Boston just blows us away. The completely natural way in which they combine their virtuosity as a dancer with a radical openness for different inputs makes them stand out. Their sophisticated curiosity stretches the boundaries of each vocabulary they are dancing in, and gives the concept of otherness a face. The jury is therefore immensely curious to see how Boston will meet new challenges, and will develop their potential to go beyond artistic borders even more.

Boston was trained at the Dance School of Scotland in Glasgow (2008–2013) and subsequently went to the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance in London (2013–2016). In 2016 he became a member of the junior company of the Netherlands Dance Theatre (NDT 2) in The Hague; he joined the senior company (NDT 1) in 2019.

For more on Boston (in English):

<https://www.piketkunstprijzen.nl/boston-gallacher-2> (Nomination profile video clip)

<https://www.piketkunstprijzen.nl/de-piket-kunstprijzen-in-coronatijd-27-boston-gallacher-2> (Interview)

<https://www.ndt.nl/en/team/boston-gallacher/> (Netherlands Dance Theatre website)

**Not the first Glaswegian Piket Art Prizes winner**

It may be relevant to note that Boston Gallacher is not the first Glaswegian to win a Piket Art Prize. In 2016 **Debbie Young** (Glasgow 1990) won the Piket Art Prize in the Painting category. Debbie is to take part in the postponed Glasgow International which will take place next year: <https://glasgowinternational.org/events/erika-silverman-raymond-strachan-debbie-young/>

For more on Debbie (in English):

<https://www.piketkunstprijzen.nl/debbie-young> (Nomination profile video clip)

<https://www.piketkunstprijzen.nl/debbie-young-get-work-everything-falls-place> (Interview)

**F.H. Piket Foundation**

Frederik Hendrik Piket (1927-2011) was a solicitor and member of the Dutch Senate. He was also a great art lover and built a large and diverse visual art collection. After his demise, a foundation was established with the aim to support and promote the artistic climate of the city of The Hague, with a focus on painting, dance, and the performing arts.

The Piket Art Prizes were initiated in the autumn of 2014. The Prizes are awarded annually to promising young artists in each of the three disciplines mentioned above. Conditions are simple: the artist must not be older than thirty and have a relationship with the Hague region, either because (s)he flourished there or because his/her work provides a stimulating contribution to the local cultural environment.

The art prizes are the legacy Frederik Piket dreamed of. Not only do they stimulate young artists at a personal level, they will also be of enduring significance for the local cultural climate.

**The Piket Art Prizes**

A Piket Art Prize consists of a specially commissioned sculpture and a cash amount of 8,000 Euros for each winner. In addition, each winner receives a report stating the motivation and judgement of the jury. In case an artists’ collective is awarded a prize, the prize money should be equally distributed among its members. The artist(s) may spend the sum at their own discretion. However, the Piket Foundation encourages expenditure that is beneficial to the artist’s career and profession.

Every nominee receives an individual profile video and an accompanying photo portrait. Video and portrait will be used for our website as well as press and social media communications, in this way bringing the nominees to the attention of a wide audience. They also make a wonderful contribution to these young professionals' portfolios.

A jury selects one winner in each discipline. Besides the sculpture and a cash prize each winner will be given the opportunity to have a coaching session with the relevant jury members following the awards ceremony. In this way, the winner is supported and encouraged both financially and artistically.

**The award**

Each year, the board of the Piket Foundation invites an artist to create the Piket award. So far winners have received unique objects created by: Vittorio Roerade (2014), Pepijn van den Nieuwendijk (2015), Anneke Schat (2016), Florentijn Hofman (2017), Joep van Lieshout (2018), Peter Zwaan (2019), and Suzie van Staaveren (2020).

For more on the 2020 award:

<https://www.piketkunstprijzen.nl/you-are-not-alone-say-suzie-van-staaverens-awards>