

Press release, Monday 27 October 2025

XIE LEI

Winner of the Prix Marcel Duchamp 2025



Portrait de Xie Lei. Copyright Guillaume Blot

On Thursday 23 October 2025, the jury of the Prix Marcel Duchamp convened to select the winner of the 2025 edition from among the four nominated artists: Bianca Bondi, Eva Nielsen, Lionel Sabatté, and Xie Lei.

These deliberations followed the presentations of the artists by their respective rapporteurs: Jérôme Sans for Bianca Bondi, Marianne Derrien for Eva Nielsen, David Quéré for Lionel Sabatté, and Julia Marchand for Xie Lei.

The international jury, composed of ten leading figures – Xavier Rey, Claude Bonnin, Akemi Shiraha, Laurent Dumas, Fabrice Hergott, Ann Veronica Janssens, Yan Pei-Ming, Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Manuel Segade, and Aurélie Voltz – awarded the 2025 Prix Marcel Duchamp to:

Xie Lei – Born in 1983

Galerie Semiose (Paris) – Sies + Höke (Dusseldorf) – Meessen (Bruxelles) – François Ghebaly (Los Angeles, New York)

Xie Lei has lived and worked in Paris since 2006. He is represented by Galerie Semiose (Paris) and is a graduate of CAFA in Beijing and ENSBA in Paris. His painting develops a language that conveys a deeply personal universe and provides a space for experimentation, that interrogates the role of painting as a medium in today's world. While grounded in reality, his work ventures into ambiguous, uncertain worlds, transformed by his imagination. Most of his paintings evoke troubled or unsettling situations, subtly connected to literary and cinematographic memories or drawn from the profound depths of emotion. His art focuses on the complexity of events and situations, and above all on their inherent ambiguities and tensions.

His work has been exhibited in numerous institutions: Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris (FR); MO.CO, Montpellier (FR); CAPC, Bordeaux (FR); Villa Noailles, Hyères (FR); Collection Lambert, Avignon (FR); MAC VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine (FR); Langen Foundation, Neuss (DE); Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris (FR); Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris (FR). Xie Lei's work can also be found in public and private collections such as Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, MAC VAL, Albertina Museum and X Museum. Xie Lei is a former resident at the Casa de Velázquez in Madrid (2020-2021), and a resident at the Villa Médicis in Rome (2024).

"For 25 years, each edition of the Prix Marcel Duchamp has been a tribute to the vitality and creativity of the contemporary French art scene. On behalf of the 300 collectors of ADIAF, I warmly congratulate the laureate, Xie Lei. I am delighted by the quality of the Prix Marcel Duchamp exhibition, presented for the first time this year at the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris. This edition is an exemplary illustration of the remarkable collective formed by the French State, the City of Paris, and ADIAF around a shared goal: to promote the French scene by giving its artists essential visibility, both in France and internationally. I would also like to highlight that, beyond this exhibition, the four finalists will benefit from our association's support programme, including residencies at the Manufacture de Sèvres and the Villa Albertine, as well as exhibitions abroad."

– Claude Bonnin, President of ADIAF

"Xie Lei's paintings are a particularly accomplished expression of what defines the beginning of the 21st century. Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, disorientation and vertigo have become the most commonly felt sensations. His works offer a concise and spellbinding representation of this condition, making Xie Lei one of the most remarkable figures of the new French scene. We are delighted to present them at the Musée d'Art Moderne as part of the 25th and prestigious Prix Marcel Duchamp."

– Fabrice Hergott, Director of the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris

"The 2025 Prix Marcel Duchamp honours an artist who chose France as the place to train and to fully unfold his talent. Xie Lei demonstrates both a deep knowledge of the history of this medium and a thoroughly contemporary application of it, in his practice as well as in his themes. He is therefore a worthy representative of today's French art scene."

– Xavier Rey, Director of the Centre Pompidou

Created by ADIAF and organized since its inception in partnership with the Centre Pompidou, the Prix Marcel Duchamp has established itself since 2000 as one of the leading awards in the contemporary art world. With an endowment of €90,000, of which €35,000 is awarded to the winning artist, it highlights each year four artists who represent the French art scene.

As renovation work on the historic Centre Pompidou building has required finding a new venue, the Prix Marcel Duchamp exhibitions from 2025 to 2029 are being presented at the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, within the Centre Pompidou's Constellation program.

The exhibition of the nominated artists is supported by the ADIAF with €40,000 in funding allocated to the artists and their galleries, along with a dedicated annual publication. The four artists will also benefit from ADIAF's partner residency programs, at Sèvres – Manufacture et Musées Nationaux or at Villa Albertine in the United States, as well as international exhibitions organized with the support of the Institut français — thereby extending the reach of the Prix Marcel Duchamp worldwide.

The exhibition of the four artists nominated for the 2025 Prix Marcel Duchamp, free and open to the public, is being held in the collection galleries of the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, within a partnership between the Centre Pompidou, the ADIAF, and the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris / Paris Musées, from 26 September 2025 to 22 February 2026.

The exhibition is curated by Julia Garimorth (Chief Curator and Head of Contemporary Collections at the Musée d'Art Moderne) and Jean-Pierre Criqui (art historian, critic, and curator in the Contemporary Collections Department of the Musée national d'art moderne – Centre Pompidou).

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Practical Information

Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris
11 Avenue du Président Wilson — 75116 Paris
www.mam.paris.fr
Open Monday–Sunday
From 10am to 6pm
Thursdays until 9.30pm
Free admission

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