

Paris, 29 March 2012

Farah ATASSI winner of the Jean-François PRAT Prize

The first Jean-François PRAT Prize was awarded to the painter Farah ATASSI, an artist living in France and represented by the Xippas gallery (Paris).

This new contemporary art prize was awarded on Tuesday 27 March 2012 by a committee comprising in particular the partners of the law firm BREDIN PRAT of which Jean-François PRAT was a co-founder. During the evening, Jean-Jacques AILLAGON, presiding this first ceremony, handed the Jean-François PRAT Prize over to Farah ATASSI in the offices of the firm in Paris, in the presence of numerous guests, friends, artists, clients and art collectors, gathered in the memory of Jean-François PRAT who passed away one year ago.

In addition to the partners of the firm and Jean-Jacques AILLAGON, the Jury was composed of personalities from the art world: Marie-Aline PRAT, an art historian and the author of numerous books about paintings; Juliette LAFFON, the *Conservateur général honoraire du Patrimoine*; Hervé ACKER, an art collector and Frédéric BRIERE, an art collector and the author of the *Guide de l'Artiste*.

When congratulating the winner, Jean-Jacques AILLAGON declared to be "*convinced that, in such a developed society as we live in, there should be, alongside a strong action from the Administration, the promotion of culture and arts handled by the society itself, I am referring to individuals, their associations and businesses. These are several goals certainly attained by the advent of the Jean-François Prat Prize.*"

Three emerging artists of different citizenships were selected as nominees for the Prize: Farah ATASSI (born in 1981 in Brussels), Gavin PERRY (born in 1971 in Philadelphia) and Lesley VANCE (born in 1977 in Milwaukee).

The financial portion of the Prize amounts to €20,000 for the winner and €2,000 for each of the other nominees, in addition to the publishing of a catalogue about each artist's work and a two-month exhibit of the artists' works in the firm's offices in Paris.

The Reviewers for the Jury were François QUINTIN, chairman of the *Fondation Galeries Lafayette pour la création* (for Farah ATASSI); Frédéric BONNET, art critic in the *Journal des Arts* (for Gavin PERRY); Florence DERIEUX, Director of *FRAC Champagne Ardenne* (for Lesley VANCE).

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