

Paris, 28 March 2013

Matt Saunders wins the Jean-François Prat Prize 2013

The Jean-François Prat Prize, in this second edition, has been awarded to Matt Saunders, an artist resident in the United States and Berlin, represented in Paris by the Marian Goodman Gallery.

This contemporary art prize was awarded on Monday 25 March 2013 by the partners of the law firm Bredin Prat, which Jean-François Prat co-founded.

Jennifer Flay, the Artistic Director of the FIAC, the contemporary art fair held in Paris each year, and who is chairing this second edition, presented the Jean-François Prat Prize to Matt Saunders, at an evening reception held at the firm's offices in Paris, with many guests, friends, artists, clients and art collectors present, all having come together to honour the memory of Jean-François Prat.

In congratulating the winner, Jennifer Flay said "*the tension between the movement and the surface in the works of Matt Saunders makes painting, photography and film coincide in a work benefiting from an elaborate technique to achieve a highly sensual rendering*".

Besides the firm's partners and Jennifer Flay, the jury was made up of prominent figures from the art world: Marie-Aline Prat, who has a doctorate in history of art, Juliette Laffon, senior curator emerita in modern and contemporary art, Hervé Acker, art collector and Frédéric Brière, art collector and author of "*Le Guide de l'Artiste*", a handbook for artists.

Three rising artists had been shortlisted: Guillaume Bresson (born in 1982 in Toulouse), Mathieu Cherkit (born in 1982 in Paris) and Matt Saunders (born in 1975 in Tacoma in the State of Washington).

The Prize consists of an award of €20,000 for the winner and €2,000 for each of the two other shortlisted artists, as well as the publication of a catalogue on the selected artists' work and a two-month exhibition of the three artists' work in the firm's offices.

As regards the catalogue, the authors writing on the artists' work were Léa Bismuth, art critic, independent exhibition organiser and lecturer writing on the work of Guillaume Bresson; Anaël Pigeat, art critic and editor of the magazine *art press* on Mathieu Cherkit, and Paul Galvez, American art historian and critic for *Artforum* and *October*, writing on the work of Matt Saunders.

Press contact: Anne-Laure Julien (+33 1 44 35 27 13) – alj@bredinprat.com

Further information on the law firm Bredin Prat can be found at www.bredinprat.com