

Third edition of the Jean-François Prat contemporary art prize
Winning artist: ZANDER BLOM

The Jean-François Prat Prize was awarded on Tuesday 25 March 2014 to Zander Blom.

The artist, who lives in Johannesburg and who is represented by the Stevenson gallery in Johannesburg and Cape Town, follows on from Farah Atassi who won the prize in 2012 and Matt Saunders who won in 2013.

This contemporary art prize, created three years ago by the partners of the law firm Bredin Prat which Jean-François Prat co-founded, supports young artists, whether French or of any other nationality.

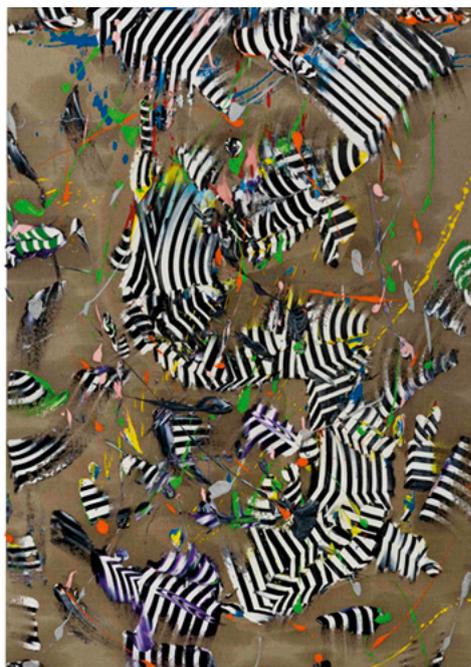
The third edition was chaired by Christian Langlois-Meurinne, President of the IDI Group and President of the Society of Friends of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, who presented the Prize to Zander Blom at a reception held at the offices of Bredin Prat, with many guests, friends, artists, clients and art collectors present, all having come together to honour the memory of Jean-François Prat.

In congratulating the winner, Christian Langlois-Meurinne spoke of the three shortlisted artists, Zander Blom, Stelios Faitakis and Rezi Van Lankveld: *“the three artists shortlisted this year come from South Africa, Greece and the Netherlands. They exhibit works of great depth through the ideas conveyed and of great passion in their creation. They confirm the extreme vigour of contemporary painting.”*

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

Besides the firm's 42 partners and Christian Langlois Meurinne, the jury was made up of the members of the Prize's committee of art experts: Marie-Aline Prat, who has a doctorate in history of art; Juliette Laffon, senior curator emerita in modern and contemporary art; Frédéric Brière, art collector and author of *Le Guide de l'Artiste*, and Frédéric Bonnet, art critic and curator.

The persons presenting the artists were: Judicaël Lavrador, art critic, independent curator and journalist at *Les Inrockuptibles* and *Beaux Arts magazine* for Zander Blom; Anissa Touati, independent curator for Stelios Faitakis; Alain Cueff, art historian, independent curator, professor at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris for Rezi Van Lankveld.



1.568 Untitled, 2013

About Zander Blom

Zander Blom was born in 1982 in Pretoria, South Africa, and lives and works in Johannesburg.

He became an artist without going through art school. His first major body of work, *The Drain of Progress*, was shown in Johannesburg (2007), Cape Town (2008) and London (2009). His exhibition *The Travels of Bad* followed, showing in Johannesburg and Cape Town (2009). Subsequent solo shows have taken place at the Savannah College of Art in Savannah and Atlanta (United States) (2011-2012), Galerie van der Mieden in Antwerp (Belgium) and at the 5x6x9 gallery in Berlin (Germany) (2010), in addition to the Stevenson gallery.

His group shows include *The Evolution of Art 1830-2140* at the Kuckei + Kuckei gallery in Berlin (2013), *The Global Contemporary: Art worlds after 1989* at the ZKM Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe (Germany) (2011), *Ampersand* at the Daimler Contemporary in Berlin (2010); and *.ZA: Young art from South Africa* at the Palazzo Delle Papesse in Sienna (Italy) (2008).

About the Jean-François Prat Prize

To celebrate the memory of Jean-François Prat, who died on 26 March 2011, and who was a contemporary art enthusiast, the partners of the law firm Bredin Prat, which he co-founded, decided to pay tribute to his name by creating in 2012 a new contemporary art prize.

Each year, the Prize's expert committee, made up of key figures from the world of art, pre-select ten young artists and shortlist three finalists, from among whom the winning artist is selected.

At an evening event which takes place in early spring each year, the Prize is presented, after the vote by the partners of Bredin Prat, to the winning artist by the person chairing the Prize that year.

Jean-Jacques Aillagon chaired the 2012 edition of the Prize and Jennifer Flay the 2013 edition.

About the law firm Bredin Prat

Founded in 1966, Bredin Prat is a law firm specialising in the following practice areas: corporate law/mergers and acquisitions, securities law, financing and banking law, litigation and arbitration, tax law, competition and European law, restructuring and insolvency, employment law and public law. With offices in Paris and Brussels, the firm today has around 150 lawyers, including 42 partners, able to provide advice of the highest quality to its French and international clients.

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More detailed information on the Jean-François Prat Prize and the artists' works can be found at www.jeanfrancoisprat.com

