

# PRIX JEAN-FRANÇOIS PRAT



PRESSE RELEASE  
JEAN-FRANÇOIS PRAT PRIZE 2022 – 11<sup>th</sup> edition

Paris, March 24, 2022

## FLORIAN KREWER & MARINE WALLON EX-ÆQUO PRIZE WINNERS OF THE JEAN-FRANÇOIS PRAT PRIZE 2022



Florian Krewer © and courtesy Spencer Ostrander



Marine Wallon © and courtesy Vincent Ferrané

The 11th edition of the Jean-François Prat Prize was awarded ex-aecquo to both artists Florian KREWER & Marine WALLON, on Wednesday March 23rd at the Beaux-Arts de Paris, during the preview opening of **WE PAINT!**, a collective exhibition about 33 artists selected in the prize since 11 years.

The work of Florian Krewer was supported by Mouna Mekouar, independent curator and the one of Marine Wallon by Guy Boyer, art critic & journalist.

The jury was chaired by Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, chairwoman of the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (Turin).

The third short listed artist was Pierre SEINTURIER (born 1988, lives and works in Paris).

This is the first time that the Jean-François Prat Prize celebrates two ex-aequo winners. At a time when Europe is experiencing a tough period of war that is bruising the continent, the prize celebrates a German and a French artist, selected by a jury chaired by a high-level Italian president. Without intending it, three major European countries in the history of art - Germany, France and Italy - are brought together in this unprecedented result.

The jury has decided to award two artists who question the human subject in a singular way: Florian Krewer to experience all its fragilities, Marine Wallon to question his relationship to the immensity of nature. Florian Krewer paints youth and its exacerbated impulses (love, aggression, pure energy) to better overcome them and find common ground. Marine Wallon's paintings seek to renew landscape painting to create views where the infinity of nature imposes itself on man.

**« In this prize, I appreciate the principle of internationality, to create a dialogue between French and foreign artists and the choice of painting. »** said Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudeng, head of the jury.

Exhibition open to the public until April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Bredin Prat Foundation 53 quai d'Orsay 75007 Paris (online reservation at: <http://www.bredinpratfoundation.org/visiter-les-expositions> )

In addition the two prizewinner artists are included in the group show **We Paint !**, at the Beaux-Arts de Paris - *cour vitrée*, 14 rue Bonaparte 75006 Paris, from mars 24 to April 24, 2022 (free entrance).



## FLORIAN KREWER

Florian Krewer explores the lives of young people facing the toughness of the current world, and the various impulses that drive them: pure energy (danse, sport, etc.), aggressive attitude and violence, love. Eluding one-dimensional reading, the urban characters in Krewer's paintings seem to be escaping from these situations by a kind of levitating gesture and a dynamic placement of the figures on the canvas, where, sometimes, animals suggest an analogy between humans and their primary condition.

**« *Painting is a space of freedom, through which I want to offer young people a way of seeing the world, of respecting each other.* »** said Krewer.



The attitude of the characters in his paintings are part of the intimacy of a moment and reveal the drive that animates them at that moment.

In *Dawn tomorrow*, 2020, a young lover seems to be waiting and looks to see if he sees the person he loves. The owl on his shoulder watches, too, testifying to a similarity of expression between humans and animals. Tender moment, amorous impulse. Privacy.

*Dawn tomorrow*, 2020  
© Courtesy of the artist and Michael Werner gallery

*Dawn tomorrow* is also typical of Krewer's visual system: an intense black background, few different colors, a focus character of which it is not a question of making a "portrait" but of highlighting the energy and the drive of the moment. The saturated color used to paint it (yellow (here), fluorescent pink, bright red, blue and purple). A long-time student of Peter Doig, Krewer uses black with a mix of matt and shiny materials and different thicknesses. *"I look for surfaces that match my moods,"* he says about this.

*« His paintings on a monumental scale are both fierce and vulnerable. Tempestuous, they spare us no aspect of reality. They exude a latent violence marked by an eternal questioning of the representation of the body. »*

**Mouna Mekouar, independent curator and supporting curator of Florian Krewer.**

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Running towards danger and throwing oneself into the flames is a way of putting oneself in danger quite characteristic of adolescents and young adults. But is it really about putting yourself in danger or rising above the flames with an aerial gesture on a bicycle, reminiscent of young Elliott in Steven Spielberg's E.T. Rising and escaping the drive is thus underlying and suggested in this work *ride or fly I*, 2021.

*ride or fly I*, 2021

© Courtesy of the artist and of Centre Pompidou, Paris – MNAM CCI

The first series of works by Florian Krewer in 2018-19 showed a lot of violence with young people fighting each others. Echoing his arrival in New York, in the South Bronx, which can be compared to a race in front of danger, Florian Krewer explains his intention of reconciliation despite the danger "*At the beginning I did not know very well where I landed. Everything seemed very violent to me. But when you start getting to know the people around you, you realize that the reality is quite different.*"



In *Untitled*, 2020, Krewer shows two characters who seem to be fighting or dancing, playing on the ambivalence of youth. The impulse is not the same (aggressiveness or pure positive energy), but the position and the energy expressed by the twisting of the bodies of the two protagonists can be read in both ways.

*Untitled*, 2020

© Courtesy of the artist and of Michael Werner

### **Florian KREWER – Mini Bio**

Born in 1986 in Gerolstein (Allemagne) lives and works in New York.

A graduate from the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf in the class of Peter Doig, Krewer has exhibited solo shows at Michael Werner Gallery in London (2021, 2019), at TRAMPS and Michael Werner Gallery in New York (2020, 2018) and at Tom Dick or Harry in Düsseldorf (2015) and in group shows including We Paint! at the Beaux-Arts de Paris (2022) and Ouverture at Pinault Collection – Bourse de commerce in Paris (2021).



## MARINE WALLON

Marine Wallon's paintings do not seek so much to represent as to make present. They do not attempt to produce a plausible landscape but, on the contrary, confront us with the finished reality of the canvas, created by its edges and its surface, with the materiality of the paint.

Her paintings suggest views where the immensity and the infinity of nature imposes itself on man who always seems to be on the move to an unknown goal.



*« The first idea is to disturb the gaze. I always try instinctively for there to be an oscillation between very abstract parts and other more figurative ones. Being able to play with discrepancies, streaks and pictorial accidents immediately leads me towards a certain abstraction. »* underlines Marine Wallon

*Dap Ca, 2019*  
© Courtesy of the artist

*« In their movement, we recognise the rotating, arbitrary, powerful gesture that makes the wave solid and the stone liquid. »*

**Guy Boyer, art critic and journalist**



"Snapshots" is a central notion in Marine Wallon's oil paintings because it raises the issue of duration. Marine Wallon plays on these times considered to be the shortest and most characteristic of images taken from a film roll to restore the feeling that something is about to happen.

*Zeima, 2021*  
Courtesy of the artist and of Stoppenbach & Delestre gallery

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The artist pay a special attention to the dives, which, as in the American detective films of the 50s and 70s, make us witnesses to the drama that is unfolding. This impression is rendered both by the staging and by the work on the colors and the light which makes the captured moment a unique moment.

Kirengeshoma, 2019

© Courtesy of the artist and of galerie Catherine Issert (St Paul de Vence)

More recent works by Marine Wallon, such as Zonda and Kalong, 2021, are different and horizontally framed but they maintain the same focus on the smallness of the human lost in the vastness of nature. "I want to restore a vibration through the brush. It is by him and not by my will that the motif is born and that the movement arrives. Over the series, for me who is very attentive to transitions, I felt this transformation in my painting which means that now nothing is fixed. » says the artist

The choice of large size canvas (most often 170 x 240 cm) allows Marine Wallon to process colors in landscapes. Each layer, that she scrupulously spreads over the surface of the canvas, participates in a panoramic expansion.



Zonda, 2021

© Courtesy of the artist and of galerie Catherine Issert (St Paul de Vence)



Kalong, 2021

© Courtesy of the artist and of galerie Catherine Issert (St Paul de Vence)

### **Marine WALLON – Mini bio**

Born in 1985 in Paris, she lives and works in Paris

Graduated from the Beaux-Arts de Paris, Marine Wallon has exhibited solo in galleries in Paris (Under Construction), London (Stoppenbach & Delestre Ltd) and Saint-Paul-de-Vence (Galerie Catherine Issert) and in group shows in art centers in France (Troyes, Annecy, Perpignan) and abroad (Kunstwerk Carlhütte, Büdelsdorf, Germany). She has won numerous prizes such as the Moly-Sabata Prize at the 64<sup>th</sup> Salon de Montrouge (2019) and the November International Painting Prize in Vitry (2017).

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## 2022 EDITION

### **SUPPORTING CURATOR PRESENTING THE ARTISTS TO THE JURY OF THE PRIZE**

- Mouna MEKOUAR independent curator, presenting Florian KREWER
- Gaël CHARBEAU, independent curator, presenting Pierre SEINTURIER
- Guy BOYER, journalist & art critic, presenting Marine WALLON

### **THE SELECTION COMMITTEE**

- Marie-Aline Prat, art historian and art collector
- Anaël Pigeat, art critic and editor at large of *The Art Newspaper France*
- Odile Burluroux, curator at the Musée d'art Moderne de Paris
- Frédéric Brière, executive director of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art
- Frédéric Bonnet, art critic and independent curator

**TWO EXHIBITIONS** : Bredin Prat Foundation 53 quai d'Orsay 75007 PARIS online rEservation  
We Paint ! at the Beaux-Arts de Paris museum – *cour vitrée* – 14 rue Bonaparte 75006 Paris

## THE JEAN-FRANCOIS 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, and his family, decided to pay tribute to his name by creating in 2012 a new contemporary art prize.

Each year, a committee of experts made up of personalities from the art world, preselects eight artists and then, after consulting Bredin Prat's associates, selects three finalists. An exhibition of the artworks is hanged at the Foundation, then a mixed composition jury (80% associates of Bredin Prat, and 20% personalities from the art world) hear three supporting curators of the artists, then vote to choose the winning artist. The Chair of the Prize presents the prizewinning artist during an evening bringing together guests from the world of art, business and the press.

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 the publication of a catalogue presenting the work of the three selected artists and a two-month exhibition of a selection of their paintings at the premises of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art, which organizes the Prize.

The winning artists of the previous editions of the Jean-François Prat Prize are Alexandre Lenoir in 2021, Toyin Ojih Odutola in 2020, Myriam Haddad in 2019, Nicolas Roggy in 2018, Avery Singer in 2017, Janis Avotins in 2016, Raphaëlle Ricol in 2015, Zander Blom in 2014, Matt Saunders in 2013 et Farah Atassi in 2012.

In the past, the Prize has been chaired by private collector Charles-Henri Filippi (2021), MNM museum director Marie-Claude Beaud (2020), Centre Pompidou – MNAM museum director Bernard Blistène (2019), collector and serial digital entrepreneur Marc Simoncini (2018), former Centre Pompidou curator-at-large Florence Derieux (2017), artist Bertrand Lavier (2016), curator of the Pinault Collection Caroline Bourgeois (2015), President of the Society of Friends of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris Christian Langlois-Meurrine (2014), director of the FIAC contemporary art fair Jennifer Flay (2013) and former Culture Minister Jean-Jacques Aillagon (2012).

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## WE PAINT! AN EXHIBITION AT THE BEAUX-ARTS DE PARIS MARCH 24 - APRIL 2022

*We Paint!* is an exhibition about the effervescence of painting in contemporary art, that will take place from March 24 to April 24, 2022 at the Beaux-Arts de Paris. The exhibition is curated by Cristiano Raimondi, who will also design the scenography.

This exhibition, programmed by the Beaux-Arts de Paris museum, presents an overview of contemporary painting through 33 French and foreign artists selected over the last 10 years by the Jean-François Prat Prize, in a new scenography, specifically designed for the show, at the heart of the emblematic glass courtyard of the École des Beaux-Arts de Paris.

*We paint!* is a contribution to the subject of painting, as well as the recent exhibitions *Stop Painting!* at the Fondazione Prada (Venice) and *Mixing it Up: painting now*, at the Hayward Gallery in London, in 2021.

The exhibition *We paint!* has received the support of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art, allowing free admission to the general public.

24 mars - 24 avril 2022  
Beaux-Arts de Paris

# we paint!

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Une exposition de Cristiano Raimondi

Farah Atassi	Jonathan Gardner	Li Qing
Janis Avotins	Miriam Haddad	Raphaëlle Ricol
Zander Blom	Kei Imazu	Nicolas Roggy
Chloé Sol Breil Dupont	Florian Krewer	Matt Saunders
Guillaume Bresson	Alexandre Lenoir	Pierre Seinturier
Sol Calero	Turiya Magdieta	Avery Singer
Nicolas Chardon	Maudie Marks	Patricia Tebit
Mathieu Cherkit	Landon Metz	SOIL, Thornton
Jean Claracq	Anne Neukamp	Lesley Vance
Philippe Decrauzat	Garvin Perry	Razvan Lankveld
Stelios Faitakis	Tojiri Ojhi Odutola	Marine Wallon

MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE

AVEC LE SOUTIEN DE  
FONDOS DE CONTINENT BREDIN PRAT  
FOUNDAZIONE PRADA

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### **THE BREDIN PRAT FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART**

Created in 2017, the purpose of the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art is to support and promote contemporary artistic creation by establishing a new contemporary art collection focusing on what makes a “tableau”: paintings and photographic works, and through the annual Jean-François Prat Prize. Awarded each year to a French or foreign artist, the Jean-François Prat Prize is the international radar searching new emerging artists in painting worldwide.

The Foundation hosts free access public tours to this collection and to annual exhibitions of the Jean-François Prat Prize shortlisted artists at its premises on the Quai d’Orsay in Paris (originally the premises of the formerly French State-owned tobacco company Seita), as well as permanent access through its websites.

The Bredin Prat Foundation, a French non-profit entity serving a general public interest, is fully in line with the culture and the values of the law firm Bredin Prat characterized by innovation and creativity.

### **THE BREDIN PRAT LAW FIRM**

Founded in 1966, Bredin Prat’s practice areas include Corporate Law (Mergers and Acquisitions, Private Equity, Capital Markets), Litigation and White-Collar Crime issues, Competition and EU Law, Arbitration, Tax, Employment, Financing, Restructuring and Insolvency, Digital and Public Law.

With offices in Paris and Brussels, the firm now has some 190 lawyers, including 50 partners, committed to the highest standards of excellence, to advise the firm’s French and international clients in complex or sensitive transactions or contentious matters. Cross-border matters today represent more than two-thirds of the firm’s work.

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**To get the best-detailed information about the Jean-Francois Prat Prize, please check on line:**

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