

PRIX JEAN-FRANÇOIS PRAT



PRESS RELEASE

Paris, June 12th, 2025

TOBY ZIEGLER PRIZEWINNER OF THE JEAN-FRANCOIS PRAT PRIZE

The 14th Jean-François Prat Prize was awarded to the artist Toby ZIEGLER, Wednesday June 11th, 2025 at the Bredin Prat Foundation for Contemporary Art - 53 quai d'Orsay, Paris.

His work was presented to the jury by Marc DONNADIEU, independent curator and art critic.

The Jury was chaired by Chris DERCON, executive director of Fondation CARTIER pour l'art contemporain.

Toby ZIEGLER, born in 1972 in London, is winner of the Jean-François Prat 2025 prize. The two other artists presented are Syaiful Aulia GARIBALDI and Lisa JO.

Toby ZIEGLER's innovative process interfaces sensitive painting and digital technology, superposing them in interlocking abstract compositions in which the attentive viewer strives in vain to work out what's going on, but ends up feeling a muted emotion due to their very efforts to interpret. At a time when the spectre of Artificial Intelligence is raising radical questions about life, we felt that his work affords an interesting angle of approach.

Chris DERCON expressed what interested him in this special edition of the Jean-François Prat Prize focusing on abstract art:

« If there is less and less abstract painting than there was 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60 years ago, it's a sign that something has happened.

Today, we see something completely different from what we know as abstract painting. Toby Ziegler, like the other two artists in the 2025 Prize, are on the verge, but not at the limit of abstraction. I dare to declare the notion of abstract painting obsolete.».

Public exhibition through August 31st (on Saturdays, through online reservation at: <http://www.bredinpratfoundation.org/en/visit-the-exhibitions/>)

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TOBY ZIEGLER



Toby Ziegler brings together motifs derived from a wide range of sources (photos, paintings, mémoire), and uses the computer to generate new forms and pictorial spaces, manipulating layers of pattern. Erasing the distinction between figuration and abstraction, the artist revels in the slippages between the virtual and the actual, and furthermore in the very physical acts of decomposing and distorting the materials. Leaving a lingering effect, these building blocks become impossible to separate or fully perceive, and the artist let the viewer's subjective and sensitive impression add a final layer of meaning.



Blind men exploring the skin of an elephant, 2023
Oil and inkjet on canvas
78.8 x 98.4 in. / 200 x 250 cm

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Exhausted symbols, 2023
Oil and inkjet on canvas
78.8 x 98.4 in. / 200 x 250 cm

"These days, the entire surface of reality is mapped, encoded and transmitted in real time to every point and every place. Everything is pure visibility. Does this make everything legible and intelligible? Certainly not! The role of the investigator, the forensic scientist or the artist today is, for example, to play on both aspects, the gap and the trace (the palindromic pair of *écart/trace* in French): by standing back, parting the integuments of the real, they exhume their memory, movements and lines, the better to understand their hidden foundation, evolutions and realities. The exercise is as perilous as it is vertiginous, and it is particularly enlightening. As Ziegler's work demonstrates."

Marc Donnadieu
Curateur



Escapism, 2024
Oil and inkjet on canvas
70.9 x 51.2 in. / 180 x 130 cm

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Misremembered painting, 2024
Oil and inkjet on canvas
55.2 x 78.8 in. / 140 x 200 cm

TOBY ZIEGLER – Mini bio

Born in 1972 in London, he lives and works in London.

Graduated from St Martins College of art, his work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at international institutions including the Stiftung zur Förderung zeitgenössischer Kunst, Weidingen (2022 and 2017); The Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart (2018–2019); The Freud Museum, London (2017); The Hepworth Wakefield (2014); Zabłudowicz Collection, London (2010, travelled to The New Art Gallery Walsall; and Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki); Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield (2007); and Chisenhale Gallery, London (2005). Toby Ziegler's works are part of institutional collections of the Arts Council England, The British Council and the Tate, London; The Museum of Old and New Art, Hobart.

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EDITION 2025

INDIVIDUAL PRESS VISITS

By request, June 12th – August 31st, 2025,

Hosted by Frédéric Brière, executive director of the Bredin Prat Foundation or a member of the selection committee, at 53, quai d'Orsay 75007 Paris

SUPPORTING CURATORS PRESENTING THE ARTISTS TO THE JURY OF THE PRIZE

- Juliette LECORNE, curator at the Fondation Cartier will present Syaiful Aulia GARIBALDI
- Fabrice STROUN, independent curator will present Lisa JO
- Marc DONNADIEU, independent curator and art critic, will present Toby ZIEGLER

ARTISTIC SELECTION COMMITTEE 2025

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

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, an expert committee, made up of key figures from the world of art, pre-selects eight artists and shortlists three finalists, from among whom the winning artist is selected. Then, following the vote by the jury (80% of art connoisseurs' partners of Bredin Prat, and 20% of artworld figures) the person chairing the Prize presents the award to the winning artist at an evening event bringing together guests from the art world, 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 Christine Safa in 2024, Jem Perucchini in 2023, Florian Krewer and Marine Vallon in 2022, 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 and Farah Atassi in 2012.

In the past, the Prize has been chaired by the president of the Society of Friends of the MAM Paris Jean-Paul Agon (2024), the curator of São Paulo Biennale Manuel Borja-Villel (2023), private collectors Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudango (2022) and 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

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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).

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, Governance), Litigation and White-Collar Crime, Competition and EU Law, International Arbitration, Tax, Employment, Financing, Restructuring and Insolvency, Public Law, Digital Law and Intellectual Property, and Financial Services and Insurance Regulation.

With offices in Paris and Brussels, the firm now has now almost 200 lawyers 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 online:

www.prixjeanfrancoisprat.com ou www.bredinpratfoundation.org



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