



CoBrA *KUNSTPRIJS* Amstelveen
2011

Press Release

Nathaniel Mellors
Winner 2011
Cobra Art Prize Amstelveen

Winner Announced

The executive committee of the Cobra Art Prize Amstelveen Foundation is pleased to announce that the 2011 Cobra Art Prize is being awarded to visual artist **Nathaniel Mellors** (born 1974, Doncaster, UK, lives and works in Amsterdam). The Cobra Art Prize was established in 2005 and is awarded every two years. It includes a monetary award of €10,000, a publication and an exhibition. The Cobra Art Prize Amstelveen is awarded to an artist living in the Netherlands who produces innovative work that attests to engagement and experiment. Previous recipients of the price have been Joost Conijn (2005), Johannes Schwartz (2007) and Gijs Frieling (2009).

In 2011, the jury comprised Dominic van den Boogerd (director of De Ateliers, Amsterdam), Xander Karskens (curator for De Hallen, Haarlem), Saskia van Kampen (curator for the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum, Rotterdam) and Katja Weitering (artistic director Cobra Museum of Modern Art, Amstelveen).

The jury has selected Nathaniel Mellors because of his completely unique visual world and the powerful impact that his work has on its viewers. His inventive cross-fertilizations between visual art, music, theatre and text are consistent with the multidisciplinary engagement of the Cobra artists.

Award Presentation and Nathaniel Mellors Exhibition

Nathaniel Mellors will be exhibiting at the Cobra Museum in Amstelveen from 10 December 2011 through 4 March 2012. The exhibition will open on Friday, 9 December, at 5:30 PM. This exhibition will be part of Mellors' extensive ongoing project, *Ourhouse*, previous versions of which have been presented at De Hallen in Haarlem and other locations. As in earlier versions of the project, Mellors will be combining sculptural elements with serial video works in a manner completely unique to him, offering a personal, satirical perspective on television drama.

Nathaniel Mellors

Nathaniel Mellors creates absurdist scripts, psychedelic theatre, film, video, performance, collages and sculptural works in which the distinction between meaning and incomprehensibility is put to the test. A returning theme in his multisided work is the complex relationship between language and power, which he incorporates in narratives that betray a tendency to

satire and the grotesque. In addition to his visual work, Nathaniel Mellors is also bass guitarist in the group, Advanced Sportswear, and is co-founder of Junior Aspirin Records.

Nathaniel Mellors studied at Oxford University's Ruskin School of Fine Art (1996-1999) and the Royal College of Art in London (1999-2001). From 2007 to 2009, he was a resident at the Rijksakademie of Fine Art in Amsterdam. His upcoming exhibitions include *ILLUMInations*, at the 2011 Venice Biennial. Recent exhibitions include *Nathaniel Mellors: Ourhouse* (I.C.A., London, 2011); *The British Art Show 7: In The Days of The Comet* (The Hayward Gallery, London, touring the UK in 2011); *Giantbum* (Altermodern: Tate Triennial, 2009 and Stedelijk Museum Bureau, Amsterdam); *The Time Surgeon* (Lyon Biennial, 2007; ArtSway, UK, 2007; South London Gallery, 2009; Stedelijk Museum CS, Amsterdam, 2008); and *Profondo Viola* (Matt's Gallery, London, 2004).

Members of the Board of Directors of the Cobra Art Prize Amstelveen are Ms. Marieke Sanders-ten Holte, chair, Ms. Els Ottenhof, Mr. Eelco Dijk and Mr. Mels Crouwel.

Note to editors:

Additional information and digital images are available by contacting Lieke Fijen, tel. +31-20-5475038, or l.fijen@cobra-museum.nl / www.cobra-museum.nl

Background information about the Cobra Art Prize Amstelveen can be found at www.cobraprijsamstelveen.nl.