

58th OCTOBER SALON AWARD

The Expert Jury for the Award of the 58th October Salon - Belgrade Biennale, *The Dreamers*, whose members Jérôme Sans, (artistic director, art critic and curator), Tevž Logar (independent curator) and Mišela Blanuša (curator in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade) focused on various aspects of this year's Biennale, but special attention was given to young and emerging artists, who showed not only autonomy in their artistic work and conceptual completeness, but also the desire and need to address important aesthetic and social issues of today.

In accordance with that, the Jury decided that the winner of the 58th October Salon - Belgrade Biennale Award is Sonja Radaković. The choice of this young and talented Serbian artist was guided by the desire to reward an exceptional work of art that she presented at the exhibition and the artistic talent and potential for even better artistic work and career ahead of her. Sonja Radaković has focused her work so far on various types of contemporary art practices: video, photography and primarily performance, which is the case with the exhibited work *Occupied* (2021). Using the body as an artistic tool and artistic medium in her research and multimedia practice, the artist "dissects" the crisis of modern society in which we live, social morality, imposed norms and social condemnation, as well as the ubiquity of surveillance technology and contradictory control mechanisms. Her performance tries to address the theme of anxiety caused by life insecurity and questioning of one's own identity – as a woman and artist, using the mechanisms of seduction, narcissism and voyeurism in order to achieve the desire for self-determination and thus opening a crack of psychological effects on individuals / viewers, collective body and artistic work.

In addition to explaining the winner's artistic qualities, the Jury wants to give public and professional support to a young artist who comes from Serbia, the host country of this great and important event that has been held since 1960, leaving, with its history, a deep mark initially on the local, and in the past fifteen years on the regional and international scene. Since the Serbian scene is very active and has an exceptional number of artists who build distinguished local and international careers and have remarkable artistic production, the Jury is of the opinion that this year's award should also give symbolical impetus to the local, Serbian, art scene which represents an important "anchor" for its internationalization through large exhibitions, curatorially conceived projects or thematic exhibitions, such as the October Salon among others.

18.8.2021.