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The Akademie der Künste awards the Kunstpreis Berlin Jubiläumsstiftung 1848/1948 (Berlin Jubilee Foundation Art Prize)

Awards ceremony on 18th March in the Akademie der Künste; awards to be presented by The Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, and the President of the Akademie der Künste, Klaus Staeck

The architect Florian Beigel will receive the Großer Kunstpreis 2013 (Main Prize). A single **Grand Berlin Art Prize** is awarded every year on behalf of the Federal State of Berlin by one of the six Sections of the Akademie der Künste in rotation, endowed with 15,000 Euros. In addition, six **Kunstpreise Berlin (Art Prizes)**, each endowed with 5,000 Euros, are awarded. This year's winners of those prizes are: for the Fine Arts Section, **Birgit Dieker** (Berlin), for the Architecture Section, **José Selgas** and **Lucía Cano** (Madrid), for the Music Section, **Simon Steen-Andersen** (Kopenhagen and Berlin), for the Literature Section, the Austrian **Reinhard Kaiser-Mühlecker** and for the Performing Arts Section the director **Ulrich Rasche** (Berlin). The prize in the Film and Media Arts Section is shared, honouring the two young directors **Ali Samadi Ahadi** from Tabriz/Iran and **Nadim Mishlawi** from Beirut/Lebanon.

In awarding the Großer Kunstpreis (Grand Art Prize) to **Florian Beigel** the Akademie der Künste has honoured not only an outstanding architect, but also an exceptional and passionate teacher. The jury comprised Academy members Francine Houben and Matthias Sauerbruch as well as Axel Sowa as an invited guest.
Florian Beigel, born in Konstanz in 1941, studied architecture in Stuttgart and London and since the 1970s he has been active as both architect and teacher. In 1980 he founded the "Architectural Research Unit" (ARU) at (today's) London Metropolitan University, a teaching unit that makes the unusual connection between practice and teaching. Beigel succeeded in realising exceptional building projects within the framework of this university institute, including the "Half Moon Theatre" and "Bishopsfield Housing", both in London as well as "Paju Book City" und "Youl Hwa Dang Publishing House" in the vicinity of Seoul, Korea. "Beigel's world is characterised by a high degree of conceptual thinking and a refreshing sense of creative pragmatism. As an influential teacher in London, he has inspired and guided an entire generation of young architects," the jury's states. " In addition to all his thoroughness and holistic thinking, Beigel possesses an acute sense of style. … His works never manifest themselves as ideological or dogmatic, but are precise and elegant. Beigel has made a key contribution to the contemporary pan-European architectural discourse with his works, and he provides valuable impulses for the connection between academic reflection and the world of practice."

The **Kunstpreis Berlin Jubiläumsstiftung 1848/1948** (**Berlin Jubilee Foundation Art Prize)** was endowed by the Berlin Senate in 1948 in memory of the 1848 March Revolution, and since then has always been awarded on 18th March. Since 1971, the Akademie der Künste has – on behalf of the Federal State of Berlin – awarded the Großer Kunstpreis (Grand Art Prize) in one of its six Sections on an alternating basis as well as Kunstpreise (Art Prizes) in all six Sections. The Prizes will be presented on Monday, 18th March, at 8 pm by The Governing Mayor of Berlin, Klaus Wowereit, and the President of the Akademie der Künste, Klaus Staeck, in the Academy building at Pariser Platz 4. Recent laureates of the Großer Kunstpreis (Grand Art Prize) were Cristina Iglesias (2012), Claire Denis (2011) and Thomas Langhoff (2010).