

ARTRAKER | Jury Statement 2017

The Artraker Biennial Awards for 2017 focus on fundamental challenges to peace today, such as divisive narratives, spaces that exclude, and unimaginative leadership. The artistic response to the call was inspiring with 250 submissions received from over 75 countries. The jury praises the high level of the submissions, which, of course, made the judging process a tough but rewarding one. Key criteria for the jury were the quality of the work and the commitment of the artists. As we moved closer to the selection of the final three award winners and six runner-ups, the jury took into account the long-term engagement of the artists and the change potential of their interventions.

We believe that a key role of the Biennial Artraker Awards is to make the invisible visible, question dominant narratives, and support art that does actual, measurable difference and that has potential to heal. The jury feels that this requires recognition of creativity at the very local level, where our understanding of what constitutes art is challenged to include practical but deeply symbolic action in the midst of war. It also means recognising art that reframes historical events through language and imagery, where new meanings are captured and the spirit and memory of struggle is kept alive.

We are delighted that the winners and runner-ups to the Artraker Biennial Awards will form part of the Art of Peace Exhibition with Fabrizio Mifsud as curator. The exhibition opens in Malta in March 2017 and as in previous years, it will travel to London.

The jury wants to thank all those who responded to the Artraker call for submissions. We also want to recognise and appreciate the support received during our deliberations from the Integrity and Artraker Foundation teams.

We congratulate all the Artrakers 2017!

Alexandra Sophia Handal, Andrew Jack, Manali Jagtap,
Patrick Kabanda and Marina Wallace

Artraker Biennial Awards Shortlist 2017:

- / Amira Hanafi
- / Aydin Matlabi
- / Franca Formenti
- / Leone Contini Bonacossi
- / Lia Mkhitarian
- / Phumelele Tshabala
- / Timoteus Anggawan Kusno
- / Undrawing the Line

**The list of the Artrakers is given in alphabetical order.*

Artraker [ahrt-rey-ker], noun: "An artist or organisation that shapes how people and organisations understand, engage and respond to violent conflict (and its impact), through the medium of art."