



As the last applications reached the Liverpool office of the European Museum Forum, the judging process for 2012 European Museum of the Year Award and Council of Europe Museum Prize has started.

On 16 June 2011 the European Museum Forum (EMF) closed applications for the 2012 European Museum of the Year Award (EMYA) competition, which now also includes the Council of Europe Museum Prize. 57 candidate museums from 19 European countries will be competing for these prestigious awards. The judging process is based on the assessment of the application submitted by the contenders but also on the visits of the members of EMYA Judging Panel to the candidate museums.

The new Chairman of the EMYA Judging Panel, Dr Frans Ellenbroek (59, Tilburg, The Netherlands), is a biologist, museum director, and visual artist. He has been active in the Dutch and international museum world for more than 30 years. Natuurmuseum Brabant, of which he is the director, is well known, inside and outside the Netherlands, for its innovations in museum education. Between 1993 and 2007 Frans Ellenbroek was a National Correspondent and workshop organiser for the European Museum Forum. He takes over the EMYA chair from Taja Vovk van Gaal (Slovenia/Netherlands).

The EMYA 2012 Judging Panel appointed by the EMF Board of Trustees includes 14 Judges:

- o **Frans Ellenbroek, The Netherlands** – Chair of Judging Panel, Director, Natuurmuseum Brabant
- o **Shirley Collier, United Kingdom** – Chief Executive, Scarborough Museums Trust
- o **Wim de Vos, Belgium** – Advisor to Belgian federal Minister in charge of the federal scientific institutions
- o **Atle Faye, Norway** – Director of Communication and Public Relations, Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (ABM-utvikling)
- o **José Gameiro, Portugal** – Director, Museu de Portimão (winner of Council of Europe Museum Prize 2010)
- o **Mikhail Gnedovsky, Russia** – Director, Cultural Policy Institute
- o **Sirje Helme, Estonia** – Director General, Art Museum of Estonia (including Kumu, winner of EMYA 2008)
- o **Zeljka Kolveshi, Croatia** – Museum Advisor and Deputy Director, Zagreb City Museum

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- o **Hartmut Prasch, Austria** – Director, Museum für Volkskultur Spittal
- o **Michael Ryan, Ireland** – Independent Scholar and Writer; Director of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, 1992-2011 (winner of EMYA 2002)
- o **Jette Sandahl, Denmark** – Director of the Museum of Copenhagen
- o **Jahangir Selimkhanov, Azerbaijan** - Project Coordinator in Azerbaijan, Pilot Project on the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage in Historic Towns, Council of Europe/ European Commission
- o **Sophie Serraris, Belgium** – Project Manager, Kids in Museums - London; Director, iMuseum Consultancy
- o **Jouetta van der Ploeg, The Netherlands** – Director, Stadsmuseum Zoetermeer

Having visited all the candidates, the EMYA Judges will then convene in Paris in November 2011 to agree on the winners. A long list of candidates will be published after the meeting. However, the names of the winners will not be revealed until the EMYA 2012 Ceremony, which is to be held, as part of the EMF annual Assembly, in Penafiel, Portugal, in May 2012.

Winner of the Council of Europe Museum Prize will be selected, based on the proposals from EMYA 2012 Judging Panel, by the Committee on Culture, Science and Education of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The name of this prize's winner will be announced at a special Ceremony which is to be held in Strasbourg during the part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in April 2012.

Along with the two main awards – European Museum of the Year and the Council of Europe Museum Prize – the candidates are also competing for the Kenneth Hudson Award for daring innovation; the Silletto Prize for community participation and involvement of volunteers; and possible Special Commendations of the EMYA 2012 Judging Panel.

For more information please visit www.europeanmuseumforum.org
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