



## Françoise van den Bosch Award 2014 - Jury Report

On 14th November 2013 the jury members of the Françoise van den Bosch Award 2014 came together. They were asked by the board of Françoise van den Bosch foundation to select the award recipient 2014. Every jury member made a selection of candidates to nominate for the 2014 edition. The nominations involved artists and designers from different backgrounds, and using a variety of mediums. Not only material but also space, scale, interaction and film played a role in the discussion. The jury discussed the essence of jewellery, and the role of the Françoise van den Bosch Award in the future. What is the importance of the award, and how is a new recipient valued in the wider discourse on contemporary jewellery?

The selection of candidates sparked the discussion about the current and future role of jewellery. Does jewellery belong to a specific category, and if not, what makes a jewellery artist and how is quality and relevance created? The question what is jewellery, where are its borders, resulted in some keywords: object, wearable, material, touch, intimate, and connection with the wearer.

Based on these criteria, the jury could become more selective: the work should have a connection with the wearer, the material might be hard and unpleasant, and the work might have a conceptual basis, which enables the wearer to distinguish himself.

During the discussion the jury unanimously selected Sophie Hanagarth, a jewellery maker from Swiss descent who lives in Paris. Her jewellery objects are made from forged iron, a cold and hard material and made by an ancient technique with a long history. Forged iron is not a common material in contemporary jewellery, and women rarely do it.

At a first glance the jewellery objects of Sophie Hanagarth look rather coarse and unwearable. A closer inspection shows that these objects are skilfully made and very wearable. They have a sensual appeal and are totally unique. As jewellery it is not very obvious: you might even think that it doesn't look like jewellery at all. The objects have a conceptual basis and make definitely a statement when worn. On the body this jewellery create a suspense, because of its subject matter and obvious allusions to sexuality.

The work of Sophie Hanagarth was selected because of the translation of provocation in form and subject, as well as the jewellery's interaction with the body. The work is wearable but influences also the public, an awareness shaped through the use of form and material. The objects belong to the body while at the same time restraining the user, the weight and appeal of the formed material, as well as the interaction with the wearer and the viewer, were all important reasons for selecting Sophie Hanagarth.

Over the years Hanagarth has built an oeuvre of strong and idiosyncratic work that refers to history (thematically and technically) but strongly relates to contemporary culture. Her jewellery uses an autonomous language, while it is applicable to the body and truly comes alive on the body. The jury agreed that this effort should be honoured with the Françoise van den Bosch Award 2014.

Amsterdam, 14 november 2013

The jury for the Françoise van den Bosch Award 2014:  
Bas Kok (chair, on behalf of the foundation)  
David Bielander (winner Françoise van den Bosch Award 2012)  
Carin Reinders (director CODA, Apeldoorn)  
Aldo Bakker (designer)  
Judith van den Boom (head Product Design ArtEZ Arnhem)