Jury report
Lauren Kalman is the recipient of the 2020 Françoise van den Bosch Award

Lauren Kalman is a maker of objects relating to the body, creating wearable objects as wel as perforative pieces and installations that expand the concept of body ornamentation. Her practice is a crossover between craft, performance and visual art. Using the body as a metaphor, she creates visually provocative pieces that challenge what jewellery and body adornment can be. Through her work she investigates sex, gender, power and beauty, relevant themes that are bigger than the jewellery discipline alone. Her work is political, reflective, sometimes confrontational, but not without humour.

Kalman's works aims to enhance the visual aspects of jewellery, in fact it addresses an almost "contemporary tribalness" in the sense of staging a performance with ritualistic aspects: tribal forms of adornment like piercings, brandings and body modifications, as well as initiations are around the corner and thus her work is often not easy to wear. They require an extraordinary form of commitment from any wearer. They are visually challenging and provocative.

Her work relates to a number of contemporary political and social themes. This is the result of a direct and autonomous artistic approach with the human body as a medium, striving to pierce the soul with partly uncanny images. Then although Lauren Kalman's work is very aesthetic, at the same time it is way beyond beauty and, in its own way, it presents us a mirror of all human lusts and burden.

Kalman is an outstanding maker who approaches jewellery in a most direct and uncompromising way: in absolute contact with the body, with a lasting impact on the mind.

For her contribution to the field of contemporary jewellery and craft she receives the 2020 Françoise van den Bosch Award.

The Françoise van den Bosch Foundation, named after the jewellery designer Françoise van den Bosch (1944-1977) was conceived in 1980 by prominent members of the Dutch progressive jewellery community and members of her family. Its aim: to stimulate and promote contemporary jewellery.

The Françoise van den Bosch Award is presented every other year to a designer of jewellery of international standing, in recognition of his or her oeuvre. The Françoise van den Bosch Award is not a competition, so artists cannot submit work. The award is presented on the recommendation of an independent jury.

This year's jury comprised: Jo Bloxham, artist, collector, curator of contemporary jewellery and board member of the Crafts Council and the Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair, Manchester, UK; Lin Cheung - jewellery artist, Reader in Jewellery, Central Saint Martins, University of The Arts London, UK - recipient of the Françoise van den Bosch Award 2018; Vanessa de Gruijter - artist, curator of contemporary jewellery at CODA museum, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands; Anders Ljungberg - silversmith, Professor at Konstfack, CRAFT!/Ädellab, Stockholm, Sweden; Theo Smeets - jewellery artist, Professor at the Trier University of Applied Science, dept. of gemstones and jewellery, Idar-Oberstein, Germany. Chairing the jury: Martijn van Ooststroom, art historian, craft collector and chair of the Françoise van den Bosch Foundation, Amsterdam.