

Notes Marjan Unger addressing Lisa Walker Cobra Museum 2011

Hello Lisa

Hello everybody else

As a member of the jury of the Françoise van de Bosch Award 2010 I should now read the conclusions of the jury to you all. That is a really beautiful text, believe me, but long and a bit formal and to my opinion, you are not a very formal person Lisa. So I am not going to do that.

**First, the introduction of our jury**

Paul Mertz, board member of the Fr.v.d.B Foundation

Ted Noten, designer of jewellery and other things, and winner of the former award.

Hilde de Decker, jewellery designer.

Me...

And, may be a surprise. Lisa Walker, a jewellery artist from New Zealand, who has studied and lived for a long time in Munich.

Yes, Lisa was originally a jury member, but she could not attend the meeting we had in Amsterdam because of illness, and if ever an illness turned out to be a blessing, this was the one.

So this story is interesting for Lisa as well as anybody else here, because she was not there either.

**The Procedure,**

Everybody comes with proposals and you talk as long as it takes to come up with one winner, the Dutch habit of consensus, and everybody should be able to sleep well afterwards.

Lisa did some proposals by mail, good ones they were. But this jury took a long time to get to that consensus.

There are many different ways to look at an prize like the Fr.v.d.B. award.

You can see it as an award for a good body of work, Reasonable, but a bit boring.

You can see it as an impulse for a mid-career-artist, but if one person in the field does not need an impulse to make more work, that is Lisa Walker.

There even was a suggestion not award the prize at all, who could come after Ted Noten?

And you can see it as a sense of direction, of appreciation for something the field of jewellery design needs at these hectic times.

That was the one we wanted, but **who** then.

After several hours of eating, drinking and discussing, it was time for a break, going to the loo, which is a private thing and therefore can be a very revealing moment.

Of course, nobody of us had put forward the name of Lisa because she was meant to be part of the jury. But she was perfect.

My report is still in Dutch and will be translated, but here are our most important reasons for our choice:

Lisa Walker and Françoise van den Bosch can both be seen as women with balls, with strong gut feelings and both felt explored their generous capacities freely in their work.

The quality of Lisa's work lies in the joy of making and in the provocation of the established notions.

For example:

Lisa does not buy materials for a piece, she is a junk-lady who constantly gathers everything that has a good colour, an ugly shape, that looks cheap, shines, is flexible or the opposite, impossible to handle.

But she can see the beauty in all that stuff and is able to tell stories in their combinations.

She does not do much metalwork, she glues, and gluing has a very low standard in jewellery design.

But her joy in jewellery drips from her pieces, just as generous as the glue she uses. You must be a real favorite of your glue company.

In giving Lisa Walker the Françoise van den Bosch Award 2010, **the original jury minus one** honours an artist who goes on where others stop, we award a maker who shows in her work a great diversity of meanings and other connotations that are not restricted to the jewellery field itself.

And most of all, we thank Lisa Walker for the optimism in her work, we all need that in times like these.