



Announcement of the Prix de Rome Visual Arts 2025 exhibition

The Prix de Rome Visual Arts 2025 exhibition will be open to the public at the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam from 29 November. Nominees Fiona Lutjenhuis, Kevin Osepa, Thierry Oussou and Buhlebezwe Siwani have created new works especially for the Prix de Rome. The winner will be chosen on the basis of these new works and the artist's oeuvre.

Read more about the artists and their new works below.

Fiona Lutjenhuis

Fiona Lutjenhuis has a multidisciplinary practice encompassing installations, paintings, sculptures, and artists' books. Lutjenhuis grew up in a cult, and learned to see the world differently to her peers. By taking this history as her subject, the artist explores how beliefs and fantasies – from secret societies to extraterrestrial life – can shape our perception of reality.

For the Prix de Rome, Lutjenhuis has created a cosmic installation centred on the doll's house from her childhood. Through a series of paintings, she tells the story of a snail called (St)Eve. Although the snail already carries a house on its back, we follow its search for a true home. Lutjenhuis invites the audience on a magical journey into the doll's house.

Kevin Osepa

Kevin Osepa is a visual artist and filmmaker. His work focuses on Afro-Caribbean spirituality, identity and colonial memory, often addressed from a personal and queer perspective. Osepa uses photography, video and installations to create worlds in which suppressed knowledge and rituals are given new life.

Osepa's new work centres on the fading tradition of Ocho Dia, the eight-day mourning period following a funeral on his native island of Curaçao. In the installation, he reflects on both personal grief and the collective sorrow over the gradual disappearance of this custom. The work forms part of a living archive devoted to the fragile survival of Afro-Caribbean rituals.

Thierry Oussou

Conceptual artist Thierry Oussou uses various media to visualise his narratives. In his recent work, he focuses on professions that are often marginalised, such as drivers, builders and cotton workers. Oussou explores the conditions under which they work, aiming to highlight their significance to society.

In his new work, Oussou reflects on the transatlantic triangle of trade that arose in the sixteenth century between Europe, Africa and the Americas. Enslaved people were taken from Benin to the Americas to produce raw materials such as cotton, with the resulting products and profits ultimately flowing back to Europe. By reshaping this colonial trade route and closing the loop between Africa and Europe, Oussou connects past and present.

Buhlebezwe Siwani

As a Sangoma, a traditional spiritual healer, Buhlebezwe Siwani explores the relationship between ancestral rituals and modern life in South Africa. Her own body often plays a central role in her performances, photography, sculptures and installations. The artist draws on her personal experience to illuminate socio-political themes, such as the Black female body, colonial history, Black communities and the tensions and paradoxes of modern-day society.

For the Prix de Rome, Siwani addresses the limited historical awareness in the Netherlands of the deeply rooted colonial ties between the country and South Africa. As a Black South African woman, she confronts this Dutch history every day. Through her work, Siwani challenges the audience to face this colonial past.

About the Prix de Rome

The Prix de Rome is the incentive award for emerging visual artists from the Netherlands and the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. The aim of the Prix de Rome is to stimulate the development of highly talented visual artists and to boost their visibility, thereby ensuring that the visual art field remains topical. The Mondriaan Fund has organised and financed the award since 2012. The exhibition is being organised in collaboration with the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. An accompanying publication will be released during the award ceremony.

Jury

The members of the jury for the Prix de Rome Visual Arts 2025 are: Colin Huizing (Director Chabot Museum), Imara Limon (Chief Curator at Amsterdam Museum), Rita Ouédraogo (Co-Founding Curator at Buro Stedelijk, researcher and writer), Wilma Sütö (Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Dordrechts Museum), Joep Vossebeld (Curator at Odapark Venray and writer) and Eelco van der Lingen (Director of the Mondriaan Fund). Since Rita Ouédraogo is presenting a manifestation with Kevin Osepa at Buro Stedelijk around the same time as the Prix de Rome 2025 exhibition, she will not take part in the final assessment of the Prix de Rome.

Award ceremony

On 17 December 2025, the winner of the Prix de Rome 2025 will be announced. Minister of Education, Culture and Science Gouke Moes will present the prize to the winner on behalf of the jury. The winning artist will receive €60,000.

Exhibition

29 November 2025 until 15 March 2026
Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam

www.prixderome.nl
www.stedelijk.nl

Note for press

For more information, please contact the Press Office of the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (pressoffice@stedelijk.nl) or the Mondriaan Fund (prixderome@mondriaanfonds.nl). Would you like to attend the award ceremony on 17 December? Send an email to prixderome@mondriaanfonds.nl with the subject line 'Press Prix de Rome award ceremony'.