

**PRESS RELEASE / (please do not publish until after 4 pm on 14 March!)**

We kindly ask that you publish the following where appropriate:

**bonn hoeren – sonotopia 2018**

**Nika Schmitt (Luxembourg) Wins First Prize**

**in the European Student Competition for Installation-Based Sound Art "sonotopia"**

14 March 2018

Bonn, Germany. On 14 March 2018, the Beethovenstiftung für Kunst und Kultur der Bundesstadt Bonn (Beethoven Foundation for Art and Culture of the Federal City Bonn) awarded the **bonn hoeren – sonotopia** prize for installation-based sound art at Kunstmuseum Bonn for the fourth time.

The prize winner of the European competition for students in the field of sound art **bonn hoeren – sonotopia 2018** is Luxembourg artist **Nika Schmitt**, a graduate of the Maastricht Academy for Fine Arts and Design (NL).

With the accompanying prize money in the amount of **10,000€**, Schmitt will realise a new sound installation in Bonn in September 2018, which will be presented in the scope of the Beethovenfest Bonn.

Over the course of 2017, a total of 51 works by students from European academies were experienced and evaluated on-site for sonotopia 2018 by the competition jury.

The Jury explained their selection for Nika Schmitt with the following statement:

*We have chosen to award the first prize to Nika Schmitt. Her works, in their concentration on corporeal perception and consistent coherence, both enable and demand a reception that takes place in a realm beyond distraction. Demonstrating a keen sensitivity for space, situations and questions of concern to us all, the artist succeeds in generating a finely nuanced awareness of the sensory world by means of unspectacular gestures.*

**First-Prize Winner:**

**Nika Schmitt** (LU) – Maastricht Academy for Fine Arts and Design (NL)

In addition to the main prize, an **Award of Distinction** went to:

**Andreas Sahl Andersen** (DK) – Interfaculty ArtScience, KABK The Hague (NL)

Four **Special Mentions** were also awarded to the following artists:

**Nicola Hein** (DE) – University of Mainz, Department of Sound Art/New Music/New Media

**Mio Okido** (JP) – Weissensee Academy of Art Berlin

**Carlos Villamizar** (CO/DE) – Sound Studies, Berlin University of the Arts / Berlin Career College

**Rihards Vitols** (LV) – Academy of Media Arts Cologne

The **jury** for the endowed student competition for installation-based sound art *bonn hoeren* – *sonotopia 2018*, the first of its kind world-wide, was composed of:

Dr. Catherine Nichols, independent curator / Stefan Rummel, city sound artist bonn 2014 / Carsten Stabenow, curator, producer and communication designer, as well as jury chairman Carsten Seiffarth, curator and project director of bonn hoeren.

### **CV Nika Schmitt *bonn hoeren* – *sonotopia 2018* – First Prize Winner**

**Nika Schmitt** (1992), born in Luxembourg, is an independent audio / visual artist since 2017 and freelance mediator at the "Casino Luxembourg-Forum d'art contemporain"(LU). After receiving her high school diploma 2012 (International Baccalaureate / IB), she travelled and worked in various countries. In 2013 she decided to apply for the "Bachelor of Fine Arts" at the "Academy of Fine Arts and Design" in Maastricht (NL).

Site specific projects, such as the research trip to Dakar for the "Biennale of Contemporary Art in Senegal-Dak'art" in 2016 helped Nika to sharpen her own artistic orientation. Along her study program she became a vocalist in the experimental music band "Otomax" and launched together with two other artists Mike Moonen and Don Possen, the fashion line "Dominik". In July 2017, Nika completed her "Bachelor of Fine Arts" cum laude and received the "Gilbert de Bontridder Prijs 2017" award. Exhibitions like "Artspotting" at the DNB in Amsterdam and "Fresh Cacao" at the "De Cacaofabriek" in Helmont (NL) followed in the same year.(...)

Further information on *sonotopia 2018* and the **first-prize winner** can be found at: [www.bonn hoeren.de](http://www.bonn hoeren.de)

**Press pics** for Download: [www.bonn hoeren.de/\\_2017/presse/](http://www.bonn hoeren.de/_2017/presse/)

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Curator & project director of *bonn hoeren*: Carsten Seiffarth

*bonn hoeren* – a project of the Beethovenstiftung für Kunst und Kultur der Bundesstadt Bonn

ein projekt der beethovenstiftung für kunst  
und kultur der bundesstadt bonn.

Beethovenstiftung | Bonn

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