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## Monika Grabuschnigg Wins Berlin Art Prize

<http://www.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/3287356/monika-grabuschnigg-wins-berlin-art-prize>



Carbon 12, Dubai announced Monika Grabuschnigg as the winner of the Berlin Art Prize. Monika Grabuschnigg (b. 1987, Austria) completed her Masters in Fine Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna (Austria) and studied as an exchange student at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem (Israel).

"Grabuschnigg's works circle questions about the meaning, identity, and cultural affiliation of objects, symbols, and ornaments once they have experienced a shift or de-contextualization, particularly in the form of souvenirs and other consumer products. Working mostly in the medium of sculpture her materials are clay and resins, which are processed in different mould and casting techniques, reassembling found and hand built shapes," explains the gallery. "One of her latest works 'The Relics Collection' 2015-2016 deals with the influence of war aesthetics in the local Afghan rug industry since the 1980s. Focusing on the representation of these rugs in contemporary art collections in Europe, referring to cultural voyeurism and the link between artwork and consumer commodity, 'The Relics Collection' consists of several ceramic sculptures translating the war-rug imagery into vitrine destined fetish objects."

The Berlin Art Prize 2018 exhibition featured the works of all nine nominees and was open from September 1–28. In a span of four weeks an extensive parallel program of discussions, workshops, and performances took place. The three prize winners were announced during a celebratory ceremony at midnight on September 28. The jury selected artist Ana Alenso for an honorable mention.

The Berlin Art Prize is an independent award for contemporary art, open to all Berlin-based artists. Every year, a select five-member jury from Berlin's art scene awards the prize using an anonymous jurying process. All nominees are presented to the public in a group exhibition accompanied by a program of public events, including readings, performances, discussions, and workshops. The Berlin Art Prize is awarded to three of the nominees, who receive an invitation to a residency, award money, and a trophy designed on the occasion by a Berlin-based artist.