

## The Martin Rainer Prize: *Art in Transition*

For the second year, the Rainer family and the South Tyrolean Federation of Artists (SKB) will be awarding the Martin Rainer Prize for Artists – amounting to 8,900 euros. In the first year, the prize focused on the interactions between space, shape, and contents. In contrast, this year's prize directs our attention to the concept of *Art in Transition*.

This is a call-back to Martin Rainer's homeland, the Schnals / Senales Valley of South Tyrol: For centuries, this place has been the scene of the annual "sheep drive" (transition), during which the shepherds have to traverse the main alpine ridge twice – a hazardous crossing of limits – both geographical and physical – which seems to be imprinted in the DNA of this valley.

At the same time, this motto is intended to train the spotlight on the dynamic (as opposed to static) qualities present in different art forms. This is not about taking a snapshot of conditions, nor is it about the previous or subsequent state. Rather, it focuses our attention on the intermediate phase: the period of transition. There is not a single artistic medium to which this concept is foreign. It's about the motive force driving a transition from one state of being to another. When this occurs, boundaries are traversed, a transformation is effected, and subtle intermediate hues and tones are revealed. The fine gradations inherent in these intermediate states express a quiet tension; they are the fruit of ambiguity, are evidence of dynamic forces, and generate surprising effects.

All of this can also be experienced in the art of Martin Rainer – both on the formal and the contextual level. While his works derive their vitality from compositions exuding a dynamic, often mobile, and almost fragile quality, they develop their greatest power in the transitional phase – on the boundary between physicality and space, in the borderlands between the material and the immaterial. It's where things transcend themselves.

With regards to their content, Rainer's works frequently represent intermediate states – where prevailing conditions are unclear and indeterminate, where their consequences can be only guessed at. They depict transitions which leave it to the viewer – sometimes in a snarky fashion – to decide from which state something is crossing over into what other state.

The jury of this year's Martin Rainer Prize is open to artists whose works confront the artistic creations of Martin Rainer on this level and engage with them in a meaningful and productive dialog. In this context, it should be noted that the prize is not restricted to the visual arts.

Rather, the prize is deliberately interdisciplinary. This year, it is a search generally for works which derive their power from the concept of the transitional.

Applicants should have a sensitivity for the “art of intermediate tones and hues” and reflect this sensitivity in their work. The aforementioned qualities should be expressed in their works. An explicit reception of the art of Martin Rainer is not expected; by the same token, no similarity of artistic technique or results are required. Rather, an intense engagement with his point of view and expressiveness are the only decisive parameters.

Artists over 35 years of age whose works interface with the aforementioned artistic perspectives of Martin Rainer are eligible to make their submissions. The initiators would like this year’s title of “Art in Transition” to also be reflected geographically. Specifically, artists located outside of Rainer’s chief geographical area of activity (South Tyrol) should feel invited to submit their work.

The documentation of three works spanning at least ten years of activity must be submitted. The documentation should be transmitted as a PDF or other appropriate medium by e-mail to: [info@kuenstlerbund.org](mailto:info@kuenstlerbund.org) with “Martin Rainer Prize” in the subject line by February 29, 2024. We request that you include a brief professional biography. The documentation will be judged by a jury which may, if necessary, request that you provide additional materials (e.g., models, scores, plans, etc.) to substantiate your application.

The award includes participation in an exhibition in which the event organizer will present a work of the winner juxtaposed with a work by Martin Rainer. The winner must place the chosen work at the event organizer’s disposal for the duration of the exhibition at his/her own expense. This juxtaposition will be photographically documented by the event organizer; an edition limited to thirteen signed copies will then be printed.

The competition – initiated by the Sommerfeld Collection and the Liquid Art Academy – is being conducted by the South Tyrolean Federation of Artists (SKB). The prize is awarded in a cyclical manner.

The jury for this second round is composed as follows:

Lisa Trockner (Executive Director of the SKB)

Josef Rainer (artist)

Paulus Rainer (curator at the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien)

Michael Fliri (artist and current prize-winner)

Sabine Gamper (curator)

### Guidelines for the jury

\*Authenticity and originality of the works.

\*An intense engagement of the works with the element of “the transitional,” with the concept of “transition” as a basic parameter.

\*Required minimum age: 35 years.

\*The submitted works must have been created over a period of time spanning ten years at a minimum.

\*Each submitted work should have a recognizable connection or relation to the work of Martin Rainer. A brief justification or explanation of this is desirable.

The jury expressly states that participation in the previous competition for this prize shall in no way be taken into consideration. All previous competitors are invited to participate in this new competition and to submit a corresponding application.

### Timeline

Announcement of the competition: Dicembre of 2023

Deadline for submissions: February, 29., 2024

Jury decision: In the course of March of 2024

Announcement of the winner / award ceremony: April 5, 2024

The winner of the award is required to attend the award ceremony.

The awarding of the prize requires a two-week-long presentation of the winning works in Brixen / Bressanone, the focus of Martin Rainer’s creative activity.

### **attachments:**

application form

Martin Rainer’s works