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Jonathas de Andrade wins the 2026 Eye Art & Film Prize



Portrait Jonathas de Andrade (BR, 1982) © Jessica Bernardo

The Brazilian artist and filmmaker Jonathas de Andrade is the twelfth winner of the Eye Art & Film Prize. De Andrade receives the prize for his contribution to the art of the moving image. The jury admires both the way his deeply human work is rooted in the communities in the north-east of Brazil and the carefully constructed worlds he creates through his striking use of colour, sound, rhythm and montage.

As announced at Eye on 19 November during Amsterdam Art Week, Jonathas de Andrade (born in 1982 in Brazil) was selected by an international jury. He will receive €30,000 and a presentation of his work at Eye Filmmuseum. The prize enables the winner to develop new work. The prize is supported by Ammodo Art and Goslings Film & Art Fund.

Documentary and fiction, portraiture, performance and social choreography intermingle in De Andrade's work. His collaborations with local workers, homeless people and other groups in the Brazilian city of Recife never result in straightforward narratives but allow room for ambiguity and different perspectives from within these communities. The people he meets are not simply subjects in his work; they actively shape how it is made and

presented. He also creates carefully constructed worlds thanks to a striking use of colour, sound, rhythm and montage.

In the words of the jury: “The jury praises De Andrade’s deeply human and interdisciplinary practice, which moves seamlessly between film, photography, installation, performance and archival research. His work is rooted in Recife, in the north-east of Brazil, and in the history, communities, physical spaces and everyday activities of the city. He is closely connected to the place where his work is set and, at the same time, he addresses wider questions about identity, memory and social history.”

What particularly impresses the jury is his generous approach: “De Andrade’s work emerges from encounters with people, quietly blurring the boundaries between artist and subject, artwork and lived experience.”

Biography of Jonathas de Andrade

Jonathas de Andrade (1982, Maceió, Brazil) works primarily with photography, film and installation. He lives and works in Recife, Brazil. His films are often developed through collaborations with communities, creating performative narratives that move between fiction and documentary. His interest in combining fiction and reality results in allegorical constructions that question issues of gender, class, and race embedded in Brazilian sociocultural structures, as well as the contradictions produced by its colonial past.

Recent projects include two 2025 commissions, for the Victoria and Albert Museum and for the Vatican, the latter presented at Conciliazione5 and at MACRO, Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome, as well as the solo exhibition The Fierce Shine of the Edges I at the Lausitz Festival, Bad Muskau, Germany (2026). A survey exhibition of his work opens at the Jeu de Paume, Paris, in January 2027. He represented Brazil with a solo project at the Brazilian Pavilion of the 59th Venice Biennale (2022), and his work has been shown at the Sharjah, São Paulo, and Istanbul biennials, the New Museum Triennial, the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum in New York, and in solo exhibitions at Pinacoteca de São Paulo, MAAT in Lisbon, and Foam in Amsterdam.

Eye Art & Film Prize

Since 2015, the Eye Prize has been awarded annually to an artist or filmmaker who is building an exceptional body of work and making an extraordinary contribution to new developments at the intersection of visual art and film. The prize comprises €30,000 to support the creation of new work. The Eye Prize has been supported by Ammodo Art since 2023 and by Goslings Film & Art Fund since 2026.

Previous winners
Previous winners are Hito Steyerl (2015), Ben Rivers (2016), Wang Bing (2017), Francis Alÿs (2018), Meriem Bennani (2019), Kahlil Joseph (2020), Karrabing Film Collective (2021), Saodat Ismailova (2022), Garrett Bradley (2023), Chia-Wei Hsu (2024) and Sohrab Hura (2025).

During Amsterdam Art Week 2026, the previous winner, Indian artist Sohrab Hura, gave an artist talk at Eye. His projects range from an intimate and vulnerable account of life with his ill mother to raw and absurd depictions of violence and disinformation. He also highlights tensions and fault lines in Indian society. Hura's work is remarkably varied in both subject and medium. His films, books, photographs, drawings and paintings form an interconnected whole.

In September 2027, Eye will present work by Chia-Wei Hsu, winner of the prize in 2024. In his work, Hsu explores the cultural history and geopolitics of South-East Asia. His work previously featured in Eye's exhibition A Tale of Hidden Histories (2019). He is currently developing three new works using films from the Eye collection, exploring Indonesia through the themes of rubber, volcanoes and martial arts.

Jury & Advisory Board
Jonathas de Andrade was chosen as winner by an international jury chaired by **Julian Ross** (sector manager for Programming, Distribution and Exhibitions at Eye Filmmuseum) and comprising **Leonardo Bigazzi** (curator at Fondazione In Between Art Film and Lo schermo dell'arte), **Diana Campbell** (curator and head of global initiatives at Hartwig Art Foundation, artistic director of Samdani Art Foundation), **Nanouk Leopold** (filmmaker, theatre director and visual artist), **Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese** (filmmaker and visual artist) and **Hila Peleg** (curator and filmmaker).

The list of candidates was presented to the jury by an international advisory board comprising Apichatpong Weerasethakul (TH), Eva Sangiorgi (IT/AT), Júlia Rebouças (BR), Manthia Diawara (ML) and Rajendra Roy (US). The advisory board is chaired by Marente Bloemheuvel, Head of Exhibitions at Eye Filmmuseum.

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Note for the press, not for publication
For more information or images, please contact:

Rachel Voorbij
Press & PR Manager
Eye Filmmuseum

mailto:pers@eyefilm.nl