

## ART CRITICS AWARD – TRØNDELAGSUTSTILLINGEN 2017

Each year, the Trøndelag exhibition invites a profiled art critic to select the critics award recipient among artists participating in this year's exhibition. It is critic and editor Marit K. Flåtter who was given the task of awarding this year's critic award to one of the 32 artists / artist duos participating in the exhibition. **The critics award, which consists of a plaque and a scholarship of NOK. 50,000 was awarded to Randi Annie Strand for the work Arabesk (film).**



Art critic Marit K. Flåtter's reasons for the award:

Recipient of this year's critics award has delivered a work consisting of several techniques and expressions. Arabesk (film) by Randi Annie Strand is both a silent video work and books without words. The work is an intellectual play and at the same time a formal achievement.

Arabesk is thus without a verbal language, but perhaps therefore, communicates in all languages. The simple but very elaborate work, based on an intricate interaction between infinite variations of geometric shapes, also captures the title from here; "Arabesk" is, as some may know, the name of a kind of ornament used in many cultures, but is especially known from Islamic art, where the depiction of persons and other living beings was forbidden.

In addition to the above attributes, this work is associated with expression and image culture: what can be expressed, what is allowed to be produced or signaled. And how to communicate. The silent and non-verbal Arabesque's formal qualities are also in the way that this over a thousand years old method is reused and renewed. Randi Annie Strand has done a rare work that requires complex skills in the arts.