

Bruno Latour awarded the 2021 Kyoto Prize

The Inamori Society has awarded the 2021 Kyoto Prize in the category of Arts and Philosophy, a sum of 100 million yen, to Bruno Latour, philosopher, sociologist, anthropologist and co-curator of numerous ZKM exhibitions.

Bruno Latour has been awarded the prestigious 2021 Kyoto Prize by the Japanese Inamori Society in the category of Arts and Philosophy. The scholar and co-curator of numerous ZKM exhibitions including *Iconoclash* (2001), *Making Things Public* (2005), *Reset Modernity* (2016), and the current exhibition *Critical Zones*, has been closely connected to the ZKM for over 20 years now, and to this day is involved in, besides exhibitions, many projects in a leading role together with Peter Weibel. For this reason it was emphasized in the official announcement of the prize winner that “We are pleased to advise that Bruno Latour used to belong to ZKM Center for Art and Media.”

The award honors Latour’s radical analysis of the “Modern Era” and his development of a philosophy that focuses on the interactions between technoscience and social structures. Latour revolutionizes the conventional view of the sciences by treating nature, people, laboratory equipment, and other entities as equal actors, and describes technoscience as a hybrid network of said actors. His philosophy reinterrogates “modernity”, which is based on the dualism of nature and society. With his multifarious activities, which also comprise suggestions on global environmental issues – as can be seen and experienced in the current ZKM exhibition *Critical Zones* in Karlsruhe – his influence on all disciplines is great.

This award is further proof of the unique work and position of the ZKM in the museum landscape of Europe. Further, in 2018, Fabrizio Tamburini, the ZKM’s long-standing Scientist in Residence, gave the Ångström Lecture in Uppsala, the second highest award of the Swedish Nobel Prize Committee.

The Japanese Kyoto Prize is an international award, which is conferred on people who have made significant contributions to the fields of science and technology as well as the arts and philosophy. This prestigious international award was born out of Kazuo Inamori’s sincere wish “to contribute to the progress of humanity’s future, and in this way preserve a balance between the development of science and civilization and the enrichment of the human spirit.” Each recipient of the award receives a certificate, a Kyoto Prize medallion, and the sum of 100 million yen in each category.

Press information

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More information
kyotoprize.org/en/en/laureates/bruno_latour

Presse contact

Dominika Szope
Head of Department
Tel: +49 (0)721 8100 1220

E-Mail: presse@zkm.de
www.zkm.de/en/presse

ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe
Lorenzstrasse 19
76135 Karlsruhe
Germany

Founders of the ZKM



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