

FIDEM Grand Prix 2007

The FIDEM Grand Prix 2007

has been awarded to the Portuguese artist Helder Batista.

The jury choose his work out of 1450 medals from 19 different countries.

Helder Batista (1928) is well known in the medallic field. He has participated in FIDEM since the congress and exhibition of Lisbon in 1979. Trained as a sculptor, Batista has been professor at the Escola Superior de Belas Artes in Lisbon for more than 30 years.

His medallic work is characterized by an entirely new approach: a close symbiosis between “classical” elements (like obverse and reverse, the balance between image and text and the hand-fitting size), and the use of different materials, daring colour contrasts and addition of actual movement.

To quote Stephen Scher in his citation awarding Batista with the J. Sanford Saltus Award in 1998:

“Batista’s genius shows itself initially in the basic concept for each medal...and for each subject he finds a visual representation which is clear and appropriate but also arresting and often unexpected.”

www.escultor.com.pt/helderbatista

Contemporary Portuguese medal art: the generation of the 1960s, Budapest 1994.

R. de Sousa, Helder Batista. Forma emergente entre a escultura e a medalha, Lisbon 1990.

Honourable mention

László Szlavics jr has been awarded an honourable mention for his four-partite work Passages, made in 2005. The work consists of four square frames of oxidized iron, with an “interior” made of wood. This “interior” forms a kind of theatrical scene, in which square openings have been cut to allow a small beam of light to enter the dark surroundings. The contrast between the two materials in tactility and feel helps to create a series of austere but intriguing objects.

Szlavics (1959), who is predominantly autodidact, has participated in FIDEM since 1994.

www.szlavics.com

Two articles on the work of Szlavics by Viktória Kovásznai

The Medal 36 (2000), pp. 75-81.

The Medal 50 (2007), pp. 53-63.

Text: Carolien Voigtmann

Photos: Carolien Voigtmann and Gunnel Sievers

