



## CRISTINA IGLESIAS IS AWARDED THE 2020 ROYAL ACADEMY ARCHITECTURE PRIZE

### FINALISTS FOR THE ROYAL ACADEMY DORFMAN AWARD ANNOUNCED

The Royal Academy of Arts today announced that **Cristina Iglesias** has been awarded the **2020 Royal Academy Architecture Prize**, honouring her inspiring contribution to the culture of architecture. To mark the third year of the annual prize, which is supported by the Dorfman Foundation, the distinguished international jury have recognised the enduring and vital tradition of public art in enhancing the quality of open civic spaces. Iglesias's works, such as the *Rivers and Public Spaces* series (2006 – 2018), create a sense of public gathering, with their filling and emptying of water combining both spectacle and an antidote to the noise and pace of urban life surrounding it. Her collaborations both inspire and act as a reminder for architects on the crucial role of public space provision in our cities.

The jury also selected the finalists for the **Royal Academy Dorfman Award**, which champions global talent that represents the future of architecture and the winner will be announced on 17 March 2020 during the **Royal Academy Architecture Awards Week**. The four practices are:

- **AAU Anastas (Palestine)**
- **AOR Architects (Finland)**
- **BCKJ Architects (China)**
- **WHBC Architects (Malaysia)**

Chaired by the Royal Academician and founder of Foster + Partners, **Norman Foster**, jury members include co-founder of Stanton Williams, **Alan Stanton RA**, artist duo **Jane and Louise Wilson RA**, Pondicherry and Berlin-based architect, **Anupama Kundoo** and Professor of Urban Studies at the London School of Economics, **Ricky Burdett**.

The [Royal Academy Architecture Awards Week](#), taking place **16-19 March 2020** is a cultural outreach programme which is developed with the **British Council** as International Partner for the Awards. The week will end with a free event featuring installations, film screenings, talks and music, celebrating the work of the four Royal Academy Dorfman Award finalists, inspiring a new generation of audiences for architecture. The partnership with the British Council has been instrumental in maintaining and amplifying the global reach of the Awards, both by creating connections with nominators and by supporting the RA in its ongoing promotion of the finalists and winners through the British Council's global network.

**Cristina Iglesias said:** “I am very happy to be the recipient of this recognition by the Jury and the Royal Academy of Arts, in particular because it values what I believe is the integral role of sculpture in the city, in the public space. I am interested in the crossings between architecture and sculpture, creating spaces and moments for contemplation and reflection in the midst of contemporary urban life.”

**Norman Foster RA, Founder and Executive Chairman of Foster + Partners and Chair of the Jury, said:** “Cities are our future – now and for generations to come. Successive generations of urbanists and artists have enhanced open civic spaces with public art in the form of statuary and fountains. The Royal Academy Architecture Prize pays homage to that enduring and vital tradition in its choice of Cristina Iglesias.”

**Sir Lloyd Dorfman CBE, Trustee of the Royal Academy Development Trust, and Founding Partner of the Awards, said:** “The Awards are now in their third year, and go from strength to strength. I congratulate Cristina Iglesias on winning the Royal Academy Architecture Prize. Moreover, I am delighted to see so many strong nominations from world-wide experts again for the Dorfman Award, particularly from Asia. The Awards have become truly global in terms of applications and interest.”

**Kate Goodwin, Head of Architecture and Drue Heinz Curator, Royal Academy of Arts, said:** “The Royal Academy’s Architecture Award Programme champions inspirational architecture and architects from across the globe. We delight in developing longstanding relationships with all involved, from architects to jurors, following their progress and reflecting on the evolution of global architectural culture. The public events during Awards Week celebrate dialogue between continents and generations. For the first time it will culminate in a free closing party that invites London practitioners to take over the RA with exciting activations alongside their international counterparts.”

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **The Royal Academy Architecture Awards**

Inaugurated in 2018, collectively the awards demonstrate the RA’s role as a global advocate for architecture, realising the RA’s mission to garner a wider appreciation and understanding of architecture’s vital relationship to culture and society. The awards and dedicated spaces for architecture in Burlington Gardens have enhanced the existing architecture programme at the Royal Academy, which includes debates, lectures, displays and new commissions to inspire the profession and deepen the public’s understanding of architecture.

Founding Partner:

Headline Sponsor:

International Partner:



THE  
DORFMAN  
FOUNDATION

DERWENT  
LONDON



BRITISH  
COUNCIL

### **About Cristina Iglesias**

Cristina Iglesias (b. November 1956) is a Spanish installation artist and sculptor based in Madrid. She works with materials including steel, water, glass, bronze, concrete, mirror and straw in combination with a unique sculptural vocabulary developed throughout her career. A language of constructed and natural forms applied to the creation of immersive and experiential environments, Cristina's work ranges from suspended pavilions, latticed panels, passageways, mazes and riverbeds imbued with structural and vegetative elements. The convergence of interior and exterior, organic and artificial, along with a combination of industrial materials juxtaposed against natural elements, Cristina offers a poetic redefining of space bringing to life new and unexpected sensory sites for the viewer – an approach that encourages and evokes unique modes of engagement, feelings and perception of space.

Throughout her career, Cristina's work has appealed and interested architects and theoreticians alike, contributing towards and engaging within critical architectural discourse. Her work has been referenced in key theoretical publications including Jane Rendell's *Site-Writing – The Architecture of Art Criticism* and Beatriz Colomina's *The Slow Art of Acupuncture*. She has also worked alongside internationally celebrated architects including Norman Foster; *Forgotten Streams, Bloomberg HQ London* and *Ionosphere (A Place of Silent Storms)*, Paul Robbrecht and Hilde Daem; *Cupolas, Katoen Natie, Antwerp* and *Deep Fountain at the entrance of the Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp*, Renzo Piano; *Desde lo Subterráneo, Centro Botín*, as well as alongside Spanish architect Rafael Moneo; *Doorway-Passageway, Prado Museum Extension, Madrid*. These commissions have allowed Cristina's work to exist in dialogue with and as a form of architecture in itself, whilst also demonstrating the level of interest, recognition and respect Cristina has acquired through her extensive practice.

### **About the finalists for the Royal Academy Dorfman Award**

#### **AAU Anastas (Palestine)**

AAU Anastas is an architectural practice founded in 1979 by George, Pauline, and Jalal Anastas. Over the past 12 years, Elias and Yousef Anastas have begun taking over the work of the Bethlehem-based practice, and founded a studio in Paris alongside a network of design and production called *Local Industries* in Palestine. Both Elias and Yousef studied architecture in Paris where they lived and worked until winning a competition to build a music conservatory in their hometown, *The National Music Conservatory, Bethlehem*. After returning to Palestine in 2010, the duo expanded their architectural practice to furniture design and research projects in celebration of local artisanal skills, then moving on to found *Local Industries*, a community of bold artisans and designers dedicated to industrial furniture-making. Developing alongside and entwined with AAU's architectural practice, AAU's dedicated interest in materials and local craft is applied to their architectural practice; a body of work which includes community-based, cultural, religious and residential commissions.

#### **AOR Architects (Finland)**

AOR architects is an office based in Helsinki, Finland specialising in public buildings and wood construction. Founded in 2015 by Finnish architects Erkkö Aarti, Arto Ollila and Mikki Ristola, the practice has since evolved into an architecture office of ten people with a focus on designing complex public buildings in demanding urban settings. AOR has worked on diverse public projects across

Finland inclusive of schools, museums, religious and recreational spaces and outdoor pavilions. Key projects include the *Jatkasaari School, Helsinki*; *Tampere Art Museum Extension, Tampere* and the *Monio High School and Community Centre, Tuusula*; *XAMK South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences, Kotka*, and *Maria 01*, the largest growth company campus in Scandinavia, *Helsinki*.

### **BCKJ Architects (China)**

BCKJ Architects is located in Beijing, China and was founded by Dong Mei (b.1967) and Liu Xiaochuan (b. 1967) in 2004. Over the past 15 years, BCKJ has engaged in diverse projects spanning urban planning, architectural practice and interior transformations, taking on diverse philosophical approaches to each project yet with an overarching focus on cultural heritage and social engagement. A strong awareness towards environmental damage caused by construction activity specifically within architectural narratives, BCKJ believes that a logical consistency can be achieved with surrounding terrain, vegetation and regional structure as means to imbue harmony and symbiosis in relation to nature. Projects illustrative to this ethos include *Badaling Forest Experience Center, Beijing 2014*, one of the earliest natural exploration centres in China telling the story of the local forest, entangled within the gaps of 33 co-existing large trees, and the *Clove Valley ECO-hotel, Beijing, 2017* which respectfully integrates itself within the surrounding environment through its relationship in height to surrounding trees.

### **WHBC Architects (Malaysia)**

WHBC Architects was founded in 2007 and is a two-person office consisting of BC Ang and Wen Hsia Ang, both educated and married in Malaysia where they now live and work. With a diverse portfolio of work including a house crafted from recycled telegraph poles, a dog hotel, a durian collecting shed and a communal bath for the indigenous people of Malaysia, WHBC's varied practice is driven by local knowledge and resources combined with design innovation and the collective entwining of utility, technology and emotions specific to the context of place. For *Tropical Box House, Kuala Lumpur* the duo responded to local climate by designing a concrete egg crate structure which acts to envelope and protect the whole house, shading internal walls and windows from direct tropical sun. Other projects such as *Telegraph Pole House, Langkawi Island* which utilised old timber telegraph poles along with the design of a steel-pin connective system have looked towards local materials and accessible resources, allowing them to directly inform the design process and physical outcome.

## **The Royal Academy Architecture Awards Week 16-19 March 2020 Events Programme**

### **[Cristina Iglesias in Conversation with Norman Foster RA](#)**

#### **Royal Academy Architecture Awards Prize Giving and Lecture**

#### **Benjamin West Lecture Theatre**

**Tuesday 17 March, 6.30–8pm**

Following the announcement of the 2020 Royal Academy Dorfman Award winner, the winner of the 2020 Royal Academy Architecture Prize, Cristina Iglesias, will discuss her work and practice in relation to the role of public art in creating hospitable urban spaces.

### [Space and Sound: A Workshop with Boonserm Premthada](#)

**Wolfson British Academy Room**

**Wednesday 18 March, 2–4pm**

2019 Royal Academy Dorfman Award winner Boonserm Premthada will explore the acoustic aesthetics of spaces through the Royal Academy and beyond.

### [Empowering Future Generations](#)

**Benjamin West Lecture Theatre**

**Wednesday 18 March, 6.30–8pm**

The panel will discuss how architects and architecture can unlock the potential of future generations and consider how young people can themselves provide valuable insight.

### [Forming Futures: Awards Week Closing Party](#)

**Burlington Gardens**

**Thursday 19 March, 6.30–10pm**

A free evening of lively activities with presentations by the four Royal Academy Dorfman Award finalists, alongside installations, film screenings, micro-talks and music that will fill the Burlington Gardens building.

### [Architecture Studio](#)

**Architectural Futures: Royal Academy Dorfman Award 2020**

**The Architecture Studio**

**21 February – 4 May 2020**

From Palestine and Malaysia to China and Finland, this free display in the Architecture Studio will invite the public to discover how the four Royal Academy Dorfman Award finalists are shaping the future of architecture in different corners of the world. Through a selection of models, photographs and drawings, audiences will be able to delve in to the work of these four international practices and explore how they are responding to the various contexts in which they operate.

### **About The Dorfman Foundation**

The Dorfman Foundation is a charitable foundation based on the entrepreneurial success of its chair, Sir Lloyd Dorfman CBE. Founded in 2007, its main areas of focus are the arts and culture, education, healthcare and the Jewish community. The Foundation was a major donor to the Royal Academy for its 250th anniversary. As part of that, it was a founding partner of the RA Architecture Awards in 2018. Sir Lloyd serves as a Trustee of the Royal Academy Development Trust, and sits on the boards of five other charities.

### **About Derwent London plc**

Derwent London owns a 5.7m sq ft portfolio of commercial real estate mainly in central London, with a value of around £5.4 billion (as at June 2019).

Design and architecture are always at the forefront of our vision for every project, with abundant natural light, volume and high-quality detail in our projects. We are innovative and design with people

in mind and believe in a building directly responding to its place and we partner with the most talented architects and designers who share our passion.

Equally, we believe in making spaces that are sustainable - both to their environments and users. This approach is achieved through research and thinking responsibly. We adopt this ethos and know we have succeeded when we see our tenants happy in their surroundings.

Derwent London has become well known in the industry for its strong design-led philosophy and has won numerous awards. [www.derwentlondon.com](http://www.derwentlondon.com) @derwentlondon

### **About British Council**

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. We make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government. [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

### **About the Royal Academy of Arts**

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by a group of artists and architects, under the patronage of King George III, in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded charity led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to promote the creation, understanding and appreciation of the visual arts and architecture through exhibitions, education and debate.

The Royal Academy launched a new campus as part of the celebrations of its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in 2018. Following this transformative redevelopment, designed by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the National Lottery, the new Royal Academy of Arts reveals more of the elements that make the RA unique – sharing with the public historic treasures from its Collection, the work of its Royal Academicians and the Royal Academy Schools, and its role as a centre for learning and debate about art and architecture – alongside its world-class exhibitions programme. [Royalacademy.org.uk](http://Royalacademy.org.uk)

**For public information, please print 020 7300 8090 or [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)**

**Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD**

**For further press information, please contact Elena Davidson on 020 7300 5610 or [elena.davidson@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:elena.davidson@royalacademy.org.uk)**

**16.01.2020**