

Jury

Germano Celant

Angelika Fitz

Rainer Fuchs

Pedro Gadanho

Julia Peyton-Jones

Award Winner: YONA FRIEDMAN

Decision of the Jury:

The jury is pleased to award this year's Frederick Kiesler Prize to Yona Friedman, a titan amongst architects, who is hugely respected by the established figures of the profession as well as those practitioners who are at the beginning of their careers. Throughout his working life of over six decades he has been uncompromising in rigor and visionary in his thinking. He has been enormously influential as a "feasible utopian" architect, urban theorist, designer and teacher.

Friedman's concepts for architecture are closely linked to the dynamics of social structures and to the changing necessities of the users therein. These topics which he emphasized from the beginning of his work gained even more importance in the present days with its actual developments of migration and a kind of new nomadism. It is also due to his own biography as a migrant that his ideas and his engagement for a deeply human architecture and society are based on existential experience and thus qualifies his work a political one too.

Friedman's work has been making an impact in the context of the architectural avant-garde, being both radical and future-oriented. This impact now starts to move beyond connoisseurs and instills a following amongst younger generations of artists and architects, who recognize the extreme pertinence and actuality of notions such as his "utopies réalisables". The Kiesler Prize arrives timely, acknowledging his legacy for generations to come.

Vienna, 29 January 2018