

FLANDERS – STATE OF THE ART

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, YOUTH, SPORTS AND MEDIA

Flemish Culture Award 2015 for EMMY OOST

Flemish Minister of Culture Sven Gatz has handed out the Flemish Culture Award for Film 2015 to Emmy Oost. The award winner receives 10,000 euro and a work of art by Philip Aguirre. The award was presented during the Ostend Film Festival.

Emmy Oost is a film producer who studied German language and literature. She worked for several years as production manager before launching her own production house, [Cassette for Timescapes](#). She is the co-founder of [iDROPS](#), a platform for digital innovation in the cultural and creative industries and in the social sector.

At Cassette for Timescapes she produces politically and socially engaged films with an innovative vision. She has contributed to various fields with (interactive) documentaries and feature films. Oost is also one of the pioneers of cross media work and of interactivity, attesting to an openness to experimentation but always with a well-considered and structured approach.

The Flemish producer seems to have an unrelenting drive for acquiring knowledge and sharing it with the people she works with. Emmy Oost and her directors have a shared ambition, a shared goal, shared feelings and like minds.

“Be they documentaries or feature films, Emmy Oost has an eye for new projects by unorthodox filmmakers concerning politically or socially engaged topics”, the jury observes.

Emmy Oost has already produced several films about migration: **Problemski Hotel** (2015) by Manu Riche, **No Man Is an Island** (2015) by Tim De Keersmaecker and **The Invisible City / Kakuma** (2016) by Lieven Corthouts. *“These three films are closely linked to each other conceptually and carry the viewer along on the various stages of refugees’ journey: starting out from Africa (Invisible City / Kakuma) and travelling via Lampedusa (No Man Is an Island) to reach Europe (Problemski Hotel). This is less coincidental than it may appear,”* as the jury noted.

*“The vision of distinctive filmmakers is essential in order to tackle and to nuance social issues in all their complexity. This culture prize confirms that we must continue to support these creatives. And so I also have them to thank for this prize, and wish to dedicate it in particular to Lieven Corthouts and his app which reunites refugee children with their parents. The documentary, in all its forms, is an essential instrument for **social impact** and **social change**”,* says Emmy Oost.

Sven Gatz: *“The documentary sector is on the rise worldwide. What Emmy Oost has achieved is a fine example of internationalisation, and this culture award gives this remarkable Flemish producer additional recognition”.*

Emmy Oost has also obtained considerable recognition recently as a (co)-producer both at home and abroad. ‘Shadow World’ received the special jury mention at the International Film Festival in Guanajuato, Mexico and won the prize for Best Documentary Feature at the Edinburgh International Film Festival 2016. With *Double Take* (2009), selected for the Berlinale 2009 and Sundance 2010, she won the BLACK PEARL AWARD in Abu Dhabi and the Grand Prize at the 2016 New Media Film Festival in L.A.

Culture Awards Flanders 2015

On the recommendation of a jury of experts, the Flemish Minister of Culture honours a person or organisation who has made a significant contribution during the previous season to the cultural landscape in Flanders. The Culture Awards Flanders create public awareness of the laureate at a major sector event, generating attention and appreciation for both the sector and the winner. A Culture Prize is accompanied by a sum of 10,000 euros. For The General Culture Merit Award of the Flemish Community, the Government of Flanders reserves a sum of 20,000 euros. Each laureate receives the bronze statuette ‘La ultima isla’ by [Philip Aguirre](#).

www.cultuurprijzen.be #cultuurprijzen @deptCJSM

Flanders Film Meeting is organized during the [FilmFestival Oostende \(FFO\) 2016](#) on Friday 16 September 2016. About 150 professionals meet for workshops, masterclasses and panels. Theme this year is “International coproduction on the rise”.

Background information

Cassette for timescapes www.timescapes.be

@emmyoost

[YouTube video on the dept CJSM-channel](#)