

PRESS RELEASE

Saturday 7 May 2016

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, YOUTH, SPORT AND MEDIA

FLEMISH CULTURE AWARD FOR AMATEUR ARTS 2015 Zinneke Parade

Today, Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz praised the Zinneke Parade with the Flemish Culture Award for AMATEUR ARTS 2015. The laureate receives a cash prize of 10,000 euros. The jury is impressed by the multidisciplinary character of the Zinneke Parade and praises the efforts that are made to deliver a high-quality artistic product through cooperation across all boundaries.

A medley of age, origin, language, social status and cultural identity form the ingredients of the **collective dynamics** with which the Zinneke Parade creates both social and artistic added value in Brussels' complex living environment. **Community building through the practice of art**, or creating art together, is a core value of amateur art. That is why the jury wants to turn the spotlight not only on the people of the organisation, but also on the many hundreds of volunteers and artists of the Zinneke Parade. The Flemish Culture Award for Amateur Arts 2015 was presented during the closing event of the Amateur Arts Week in Bozar.

Myriam Stoffen, director of the Zinneke Parade: *"The Culture Award comes as a complete surprise to us, right in the final run up to our 9th edition. In our opinion the award is presented to the many hundreds of partners, artists and participants who devote their heart and soul to a culture of cooperation. The award heartens us, especially in these turbulent times in which the art of confrontation with differences more than ever features high on the agenda."*

"Like no other, the Zinneke Parade succeeds in bringing together many hundreds of people time and again. Reaching across all differences and with loads of imagination, they create art together and show creative solidarity.", Sven Gatz, Flemish Minister for Culture, Media, Youth and Brussels Affairs, explains.

The Zinneke Parade has already existed since 2000. This event is ready for its 9th edition and attracts thousands of people from Brussels and beyond. Participants gather in **Zinnodes**, groups composed of people from various Brussels neighbourhoods, associations, schools, institutions, workshops, youth centres, cultural centres, music and dance groups. A Zinnode works together for one and a half years in order to develop an artistic project around the Parade's theme. Through a one-year process, each Zinnode develops its own dramaturgy, in cooperation with an artistic team. This dramaturgy is the result of a unique participatory creation that is shaped throughout the many free artistic workshops. The 24 Zinnodes together form the Zinneke Parade.

Week of Amateur Arts

The Week of Amateur Arts is an annual event organised by the Forum for Amateur Arts. This year, the week runs from 29 April up to 8 May 2016 and comprises all artistic disciplines. Amateur arts are put in the limelight all over Flanders and Brussels.

The Forum for Amateur Arts is a consultation centre and expert contact point for and about the amateur arts sector in Flanders. The Forum provides support, acts as an intermediary in a broad network, and enhances mutual coherence within the sector. Together with the [recognised Flemish Community amateur arts organisations](#), the Forum is fully committed to promoting the practice of art.

www.wak.be

www.amateurkunsten.be

Flemish Culture Awards 2015

On the proposal of a jury of experts the Flemish Minister for Culture pays tribute to individuals or an organisation that in the course of the past season made a notable contribution to cultural life in Flanders. The Culture Awards Flanders create public awareness of the laureate at a major event in the sector, which generates attention and appreciation for both the sector and the winner. A cash prize of €10,000 is connected to the Culture Award. The Government of Flanders sets aside €20,000 for the Flemish Community Award for General Cultural Achievement. Each laureate also receives the bronze statuette 'La ultima isla' by Philip Aguirre.

www.cultuurprijzen.be

Background information

- www.zinneke.org
- [Press server with visual material and documentation: \(credits Mirjam Devriendt\)](#)
- [Video on the YouTube channel \(available after the presentation\)](#)