



PRESS RELEASE
SVEN GATZ
FLEMISH MINISTER FOR CULTURE, MEDIA, YOUTH AND BRUSSELS AFFAIRS
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Swen Vincke wins the Flemish Culture Award for Cultural Entrepreneurship 2014

Today, Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz presented game developer Swen Vincke with the Flemish Community Award for Cultural Entrepreneurship 2014. According to the jury, Swen Vincke acts as a source of inspiration within the Flemish gaming sector, which is a component of the broader cultural creative field. The presentation took place at the symposium of the Bilsen Fund for Cultural Management which was organised by the University of Antwerp under the title 'Leadership in the Cultural Sector. Managing Creativity'.

Swen Vincke is a creative, alert and convincing cultural entrepreneur. He is the CEO of the small creative enterprise Larian, which is successful in an international hyper-competitive environment and puts Flanders on the international map in the field of gaming. Swen Vincke invests his symbolic capital wisely and has found allies both among traditional investors and within his own gaming community, without having to make any concessions on his vision. In co-creation with his community, he collected almost one million dollars for the crowdfunding platform Kickstarter.

2014 was definitely a bumper year for Swen Vincke. The game 'Divinity: Original Sin' became an international hit. After its release, it was the most downloaded game on Steam, the largest online game distribution platform, for almost a month. Within two months more than half a million copies were sold. Gamespot has chosen 'Divinity' as PC Game of the Year, and specialist game magazines (like PC Gamer) have ranked 'Divinity' among the top role-playing games of all times.

Flemish Minister for Culture Sven Gatz said: "Swen Vincke has shown that Flemish game developers have the potential to achieve international success. His success story Larian will create a positive dynamism within the Flemish gaming sector."

Culture Awards Flanders 2014

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 €12,500 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 'La ultima isla', a bronze statuette by Philip Aguirre.

More information is available at: www.cultuurprijzen.be