

## Jury for Norway's biggest art prize at work again

**Internationally acclaimed Norwegian artist Olav Christopher Jenssen will chair the jury for the Statoil art award 2011. The award, worth NOK 500 000, is the biggest of its kind in Norway and will be given to a promising Norwegian artist.**

"Our quest is to find a young Norwegian artist who has the energy, curiosity, creativity and skill to value the award and put it to good use," says Jenssen. He lives in Berlin and, in addition to pursuing an artistic career, is also professor at Germany's second biggest art academy in Brunswick. "The jury is the same as in 2009 and I am looking forward to embarking with them on this challenging and exciting process once again. I'm convinced we will find a very worthy winner!"



Olav Christopher Jenssen. Photo: Anna Aatola

The art award forms part of Statoil's programme *Heroes of Tomorrow*, which also awards grants to outstanding talents within the fields of education, classical music, rock music, design and sports. The art award is also part of Statoil's art programme. This year marks the third occasion on which the art award has been awarded; the first winner was the young sculptor Camilla Løw in 2007, while video artist Lars Laumann received the award in 2009.

## **Prestigious jury**

Jenssen has chosen the following jury members: Solveig Øvstebø, director of Bergen Kunsthall, Caroline M Ugelstad, chief curator at Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Göran Christenson, director of Malmø Kunstmuseum, and Øystein Ustvedt, curator at the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design in Oslo.

The four nominees will be announced in May and these artists will be invited to exhibit in Oslo towards the end of the year. The winner will be proclaimed while the exhibitions are being held.

## **Outstanding talent**

"We value talent very highly indeed. People with the will and ability to think with originality and deliver as promised are not only important for Statoil's success, but in any field whatsoever. We wish to give new talents the opportunity to develop in a direction they feel is important for them. We need talents that can inspire and motivate us," says Jens R. Jenssen, senior vice president for human resources and leader of the Statoil art programme.

"This jury is highly qualified and professional, with an in-depth knowledge of art and the artistic scene. Such a prestigious jury, chaired by the internationally respected artist and professor Olav Christopher Jenssen, will ensure that the award is seen as recognition of really outstanding talent."

See [www.morgendagenshelter.no](http://www.morgendagenshelter.no) and [www.statoil.com/artprogramme](http://www.statoil.com/artprogramme) for more information.

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