



First year <

of the Walter Benjamin
Memorial International Prize

Portbou 2011

eWB
espai memorial
Walter Benjamin



Museu Memorial
de l'Exili

of the Walter Benjamin Memorial International Prize

Portbou 2011

The Exile Memorial Museum (MUME), in collaboration with the Democratic Memorial of Catalonia, is holding the Walter Benjamin Memorial International Prize. The prize, based on the cross-disciplinary nature of the German-Jewish author's intellectual work, has two main objectives. On the one hand, given Walter Benjamin's consideration of the creative act in general, the aim is to foster artistic practice in the fields of the visual and audiovisual arts. On the other, it is to support the theoretical task undertaken by professionals associated with the study of art, photography, architecture, city planning, cinema, philosophy, history, literature and sociology. In both cases, priority will be given to projects that incorporate questions concerning the history and memory of the twentieth century. The prize will be held every two years.

RULES >>>>

The prize will include the following specialities:

1. Assistance grant for artistic creation

1.1. The MUME Consortium will award a grant of 12,000 Euros to assist the creation of an artistic project within the field of the visual and audiovisual arts. This assistance covers the production of the project. Visual and audiovisual arts are considered to be all practices associated with multimedia installations, cinema, video, photography, painting, sculpture and other forms of plastic arts in general. Experimentation and innovation applied to relations between the artistic creation and democratic memory will be valued and, similarly, the potential impact of the proposal on the public space and its possibilities of sociability.

1.2. The participant should submit a detailed synopsis of the project that they plan to undertake. This synopsis, of a maximum of 10,500 characters with spaces (five pages), should include a summary of the objectives and theoretical argument, a brief explanation of the reason behind the project, an orientative budget regarding its production, a finance plan and the execution schedule, in order to provide the jury with elements concerning the feasibility of the project.

1.3. Payment will be 50% on the date it is awarded and the remaining 50% after the final report has been submitted and assessed by the members of the jury. (See *Points 5 and 7 of the General Rules.*)

1.4. Receiving the grant will entail the commitment on the part of the successful artist to offer complete availability to allow the jury, or as delegated by its secretary, to monitor the project every three months until the period covered by the grant has ended. Each time monitoring occurs, the recipient should submit a report on how the project is progressing.

1.5. Receiving the grant for artistic creation means that the recipient may accept other grants if these do not exceed more than 100% of the grant.



1.6. The recipient should submit within one year the report on the results achieved during the realisation of the project during a public ceremony, which will be held at the Portbou Walter Benjamin Memorial Centre. (See Point 7 of the General Rules).

1.7. The grant recipient will be the owner of the completed work. However, the MUME will be the holder of the awarded work for a period of two years in order to exhibit it at the Exile Memorial Museum, the Walter Benjamin Memorial Centre, other centres attached to the Network of Democratic Memorial Sites of Catalonia and other venues deemed appropriate, without the recipient obtaining any economic compensation.

1.8. In any event, logos assigned to the MUME Consortium and to the Democratic Memorial must appear on all documentation, in all publications and, in general, in all editions generated as a result of the work awarded. There will also be explicit mention of the work having received the WALTER BENJAMIN MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE.

1.9. If the reports submitted by the recipient are justly considered insufficient by the jury or if they fail to meet any of the stipulations included in the rules, the grant will be suspended and the financial assistance received to date must be returned.

2. Prize for an unpublished essay

2.1. Given that Walter Benjamin was one of the twentieth century's writers who best developed the essay form and gave it a renewed and powerful dimension, we are proposing a line of support for a fundamental writing genre that will help us better understand our recent past and the contemporary world. An unpublished essay is defined as any study into areas such as art, photography, architecture, city planning, cinema, philosophy, history, literature and sociology. Works will be considered that capture and are inspired by the polyhedric nature of the thinking and writing of Walter Benjamin and which, at the same time, focus on subjects relating to the history and memory of the twentieth century.

2.2. The work must have a minimum of 210,000 characters with spaces (100 pages) and may not exceed 525,000 characters with spaces (250 pages).

2.3. The successful author will receive the sum of 6,000 Euros. The awarding of this sum and all aspects relating to copyright – and publication terms and conditions if applicable – of the work will be formalised with the signing of a publishing agreement/contract at the same time as the winning essay is announced. (See Point 7 of the General Rules).

2.4. Should the Jury consider it fitting, the successful work may be published within a year in a co-publication between the MUME, the Democratic Memorial and the University of Girona. The initial language of publication will be Catalan. Should the jury deem it appropriate, in certain cases the Catalan publication may include the translation into any of the following languages: German, English, Spanish, French and Italian.

2.5. The author will be owner of the original text of the successful essay and may use it freely for its publication and dissemination purposes, providing that they respect the first option to publish held by the MUME Consortium, the Democratic Memorial and the University of Girona.

2.6. In any event, logos assigned to the MUME Consortium and the Democratic Memorial and to the Walter Benjamin Memorial Centre must appear in the publication. There will also be explicit mention of the essay having been awarded the WALTER BENJAMIN MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE.

GENERAL RULES >>>>>

1. The two specialities of the prize, which is awarded internationally, are open to everyone interested in the themes mentioned in these rules.
2. In both specialities, the participant must submit three paper copies and one in digital format, be it of the unpublished essay or of the report on the artistic project.
3. In both specialities of the prize, participants will provide, along with the documents or materials relating to the work or project submitted, the following data: name, surname(s), ID or passport number, postal address, telephones, e-mail and professional curriculum, indicating the speciality of the award chosen and a brief summary of the essay or artistic project submitted (15 lines). In addition, participants must include an attested photocopy of the identity document.
4. Essays and artistic projects must be sent by registered post to or submitted for registration in the MUME, Carrer Major, 43-45, 17700 La Jonquera, specifying WALTER BENJAMIN MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE.
5. Essays and artistic projects may be submitted in Catalan, Spanish, French and English. If the original text is another language, the corresponding translation into one of the above languages should be included.
6. Schedule for admission of participating works and projects:
 - a) For speciality 1 (Grant for artistic creation), the admission schedule will be from 1 to 31 May 2012, both inclusive.
 - b) For speciality 2 (Prize for an unpublished essay), the admission schedule will be from 1 to 31 May 2013, both inclusive.
7. The jury's decision, which will be announced at the Portbou Walter Benjamin Memorial Centre, will take place on two different occasions according to which speciality the prize is being awarded for and the payment terms of the grant:
 - a) On the one hand, in September 2012, as part of the events held annually to commemorate the death of Walter Benjamin, the jury will inform as to which project has been selected from speciality 1 (Grant for artistic creation), which will involve payment of 50% of the grant to the recipient.
 - b) On the other, the announcement of the winning essay from speciality 2 (Prize for an unpublished essay) will take place in September 2013 as part of the subsequent events held annually to commemorate the death of Walter Benjamin, and which will coincide with the second holding of the WALTER BENJAMIN MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE.

This ceremony will also include the presentation of the final result of the work completed with the Grant for artistic creation, from speciality 1, and at the same time payment of the remaining 50% of the grant will be made.
8. The jury will comprise the Chairpersons, nine members of the board, and a secretariat, the members of which may not cast a vote.
9. Participation in the call to this prize means acceptance of these rules and of the jury's decision. It also involves acceptance of any changes that may subsequently occur as a result of factors outside the control of the organisation.



Chairpersons

- President of the MUME Consortium
- Director of the Democratic Memorial
- Mayor of Portbou

Members of the Prize Jury

- Francesc Abad (visual artist)
- Xavier Antich (University of Girona)
- Fina Birulés (University of Barcelona)
- Montserrat Galceran (Complutense University)
- Jordi Llovet (University of Barcelona)
- Pilar Parcerisas (exhibitions curator, art critic and member of the CONCA)
- Àngel Quintana (University of Girona)
- Erdmut Wizisla (Walter Benjamin Archive, Berlin)
- Jörg Zimmer (University of Girona)

Coordination and Secretariat

- Jordi Font (Director of the Exile Memorial Museum)
- Jordi Guixé (Head of Department of Heritage, Democratic Memorial)
- Maximiliano Fuentes (Technical Coordinator for the Preliminary Works of the Walter Benjamin Memorial Centre)



Consorti del Museu
Memorial de l'Exili:

memorial
democràtic



Generalitat
de Catalunya



Ajuntament de
LA JONQUERA



Ajuntament
de Portbou



Universitat
de Girona



Consell Comarcal
de l'Alt Empordà

Amb el patrocini de:



Diputació de Girona
221 municipis

Amb el suport de:



eWB
espai memorial
Walter Benjamin

MUM/E

Museu Memorial
de l'Exili

eWB
espai memorial
Walter Benjamin



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de l'Exili**

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