

Crystal Award Winners

Annual Meeting 2023



Maya Lin

Maya Lin has fashioned a remarkable interdisciplinary career through her highly acclaimed art and architectural works, showcasing sustainable design and emphasizing a stronger connection with the land and nature.

From her first public work, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., Lin has been committed to focusing attention on the key issues of our time: women's rights, civil rights, Native American history and the climate crisis. In 2016, upon awarding Lin the Presidential Medal of Freedom, President Barack Obama said Lin's Vietnam Veterans Memorial "changed the way we think about sacrifice and patriotism and ourselves".

Lin's latest memorial, *What Is Missing?*, is experimental and multidisciplinary in nature, using science-based artworks to raise awareness of the current mass extinction of species, while emphasizing that by protecting and restoring habitats and reforming land-use practices, we could significantly reduce emissions and restore and protect biodiversity.

Lin receives the 2023 Crystal Award for her extraordinary creative talent in combining science, art and architecture and her exemplary leadership in the promotion of nature and environment.



Renée Fleming

Renée Fleming is one of the most acclaimed sopranos of our time and a leading advocate of research at the intersection of arts, health and neuroscience. She launched the first ongoing collaboration between the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) with the participation of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The Sound Health initiative explores research and practice at the intersection of music, health and neuroscience. The collaboration has led to workshops at the NIH and events and performances at the Kennedy Center. It also led the NIH to recently award \$20 million in funding for music and neuroscience research over five years. The Renée Fleming Foundation is now partnering with the NIH to develop a toolkit for music-based therapies for brain disorders of ageing.

Fleming has presented her programme, Music and the Mind, around the world. She receives the 2023 Crystal Award for her leadership in championing the power of music and its impact on health, community and culture.

Crystal Award Winners



Idris Elba and Sabrina Dhowre Elba

Actor, filmmaker and humanitarian Idris Elba, and his wife, model, actress and humanitarian Sabrina Dhowre Elba were appointed UN Goodwill Ambassadors for IFAD in April 2020. As IFAD Goodwill Ambassadors, they focus on issues related to food security, climate change and environmental conservation. The couple recently visited an IFAD-supported project in Sierra Leone, where they met farmers who received support for rice production and assistance with rural finance after the Ebola crisis.

The late Queen Elizabeth II awarded Idris Elba with the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2016 and, in 2009, The Prince's Trust, founded by King Charles, which Elba credits with helping to start his career, appointed him as its anti-crime ambassador. His charitable work is as commendable as his acting accolades. He supports causes related to poverty, HIV/AIDS, at-risk and disadvantaged youth, health and education. He worked with the UN and the UK's Department for International Development during the Ebola crisis and filmed campaigns in support of UNICEF, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sabrina Dhowre Elba works with a variety of civil society organizations, including Conservation International on environmental issues. She promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls worldwide.

Idris Elba and Sabrina Dhowre Elba receive the 2023 Crystal Award for their leadership in addressing food security, climate change and environmental conservation.

Cultural Leaders

Annual Meeting 2023



Sarah Cameron Sunde

Sarah Cameron Sunde is an interdisciplinary artist and director working at the intersection of performance, video and public art. She was recently awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to complete the work, *36.5 / A Durational Performance with the Sea* (2013-2022 comprising nine works on six continents). In 2017, Sunde instigated and co-founded *Works on Water* (a triennial and artist-driven experimental organization dedicated to art that is made on/in/with bodies of water). She was Deputy Artistic Director of New Georges (2001-2017), co-founded the live art collective Lydian Junction (2011-2015) and theatre company Oslo Elsewhere (2004-2012), and is known internationally as Jon Fosse's American director and translator (five US premieres in New York and Pittsburgh).



Max Frieder

Artist and educator Max Frieder is Co-Founder and Creative Chief Officer of Artolution. Based in New York, he graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with honours and a degree in painting with a focus on community-based public arts. and received a master's degree in art and art education from Columbia University. He has worked with communities across the globe. His work ranges from community building with refugees, hospital workshops, and abuse and addiction counselling through art, trauma relief, reconciliation and conflict resolution. His projects have taken him from Israel and Palestine to the Jordanian-Syrian border, Turkey, India, New Zealand, Australia, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Peru, Mexico, Canada, and throughout the US. His work focuses on cultivating public engagement through creative facilitation and inspired participation.



Achinoam Nini

Achinoam Nini, also known professionally as Noa, is a singer-songwriter, percussionist, poet, composer, and human rights activist working internationally. Her music is known to fuse languages and styles. She has performed in 52 countries and was the first Israeli artist to perform in the Vatican. In addition, to her prolific musical activity, Noa is considered Israel's most prominent cultural advocate of dialogue and co-existence, her "Voice of Peace". Noa was chosen as a Global Leader of Tomorrow and is Israel's Good Will Ambassador for FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN.

Amongst her many awards is Commander of Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, one of Italy's highest honors, Pilgrim of Peace from The Franciscan order in Assisi (also awarded to Bill gates and Mother Theresa), and in 1998 was a recipient of the Crystal Award from the World Economic Forum.

Cultural Leaders



Refik Anadol

Refik Anadol is a Turkish media artist, director, and pioneer in the aesthetics of machine intelligence. A frontrunner in contemporary media art, Refik is known for his use of advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence, machine algorithms and quantum computing, to create immersive installations and sculptures. His site-specific, audio-visual performances have been shown at the Hammer Museum (USA), International Digital Arts Biennial Montreal (Canada), Ars Electronica Festival (Austria), Istanbul Design Biennial (Turkey), Sydney City Art (Australia). He is the recipient of a number of awards and prizes including Microsoft Research's Best Vision Award, German Design Award, SEGD Global Design Awards and Google's Art and Machine Intelligence Artist Residency Award.

Anadol is also Director of Refik Anadol Studio, a technology-driven art and design studio, and Visiting Assistant Researcher at UCLA Design Media Arts.



Immy Humes

Immy Humes is an Oscar-nominated documentary filmmaker from New York whose work treats serious underlying social and political themes in a variety of formats and styles through the prism of real stories about unconventional people. Humes' independent feature, *DOC* (based on the life of her father Harold L. Humes, who established *The Paris Review* literary magazine), was nominated for an Academy Award and is a stylistically original take on a literary "beautiful mind", a political, personal and cultural tale of mental illness, politics and creativity. Her films have been screened at Film Forum and MOMA in New York; festivals in Amsterdam (IDFA), Leningrad, Mannheim, Los Angeles (AFI), Florida, and Arkansas (Hot Springs); and INPUT, the annual public TV conference. In 2022, Humes published her first book, *The only Woman*, after years of collecting historical photographs to capture and investigate the breadth of the phenomenon.



Ahmad Joudeh

Ahmad Joudeh is a dancer, choreographer and author. He was born and raised in Yarmouk, a Palestinian refugee camp in Damascus, Syria, as a stateless refugee. In 2016, he moved to Amsterdam with the help of the Dutch National Ballet and since 2017 he has been active as an artist and human rights activist. In 2021, he obtained Dutch nationality. He is the Artistic Director of Dance or Die Foundation and serves as a high-profile supporter for the UNHCR and is an International Friend for SOS Children's Villages.

Cultural Leaders



Nouf Alosaimi

Nouf Alosaimi is a PADI diving instructor and a pioneer in her field. Born and raised in Taif, Saudi Arabia, she holds a local record for the deepest technical dive by a Saudi woman at 105m. She is the founder of the Red Sea Citizen, an organization that promotes and encourages women's empowerment, as well as eco and conservation awareness, with diving at the heart of its activities. In 2013, she founded Pink Bubbles, which encourages women to discover scuba diving while also spreading marine and shark awareness. Alosaimi is an avid underwater photographer and advocate for the protection and preservation of the coral reefs.



Vik Muniz

Vik Muniz is a Brazilian artist, sculptor and photographer. His work has been exhibited at both the Guggenheim Museum and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Tate Modern in London, the Centre National de la Photographie in Paris, the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., and the Kasama Nichido Museum of Art in Japan. In 2010, Muniz was featured in the documentary film *Waste Land* directed by Lucy Walker. The film highlights Muniz' work on one of the world's largest rubbish dumps, Jardim Gramacho, on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. The film was nominated for best documentary feature at the 83rd Academy Awards. Muniz is also a Global Ambassador for Artolution and will be unveiling a new artwork at the Annual Meeting 2023. Muniz is a recipient of the Crystal Award 2013.



Angelique Kidjo

Angelique Kidjo Grammy award-winning singer and songwriter Angélique Kidjo was appointed a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in 2002. Born in Benin, she began her career in music aged six, performing in her mother's theatre troupe. Her music is heavily influenced by West African rhythms and incorporates a range of other genres, such as funk, rumba, salsa, jazz, souk and makossa. Kidjo is the recipient of a number of awards, including the 2008 Grammy for Best Contemporary World Music for her album *Djin Djin*. She is the first woman to be listed among "The 40 Most Powerful Celebrities in Africa" by *Forbes Magazine* and named the "undisputed queen of African music", by *The Daily Telegraph*. As a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Kidjo travels widely and makes time to visit UNICEF projects while on tour. In 2007 she co-founded the Batonga Foundation to provide African girls with secondary school and higher education opportunities. In 2015 Angélique Kidjo received a Crystal Award from the World Economic Forum and is currently serving as a World Arts Forum board member.

Cultural Leaders



will.i.am

will.i.am, creative innovator, futurist, musician and technology investor, is also a member of the World Economic Forum's Fourth Industrial Revolution Advisory Committee and Global Artificial Intelligence Action Alliance (GAIAA). He chairs GAIAA's Smart Toy Awards, which recognize excellence in ethical toys powered by artificial intelligence. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology. His many awards include a TIME 100 Impact Award, seven Grammy awards, Emmy, CLIO, and a World Economic Forum Crystal Award 2016. As an advocate for STEAM education, he started the i.am/Angel Foundation, which uses project-based learning modules to deliver STEAM education for at-risk youth via dedicated STEM Academy preparatory schools, after-school tutoring, robotics clubs and enrichment activities within the US. In 2021 the i.am/Angel Foundation teamed with the Los Angeles Unified School District, America's second-largest, state-run, public school system, to offer robotics clubs as an official after-school activity, with the capacity to serve 12,000 students.



Carol Becker

Carol Becker is Dean of Columbia University School of the Arts. She is the author of *The Invisible Drama: Women and the Anxiety of Change*; *Zones of Contention: Essays on Art, Institutions, Gender and Anxiety*; *Thinking in Place: Art, Action, and Cultural Production*; *Surpassing the Spectacle: Global Transformations and the Changing Politics of Art*; and *Artist in Society: Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities*. Becker was Dean of Faculty and Vice-President for Academic Affairs at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago before arriving at Columbia University. She travels widely and lectures on issues of art and society. Becker is a member of the World Arts Forum Board.



Platon

Platon is a renowned portrait photographer and has photographed more world leaders than anyone else in history – including every living American president – and his work has been on more than 30 covers of *TIME Magazine*. He was Staff Photographer (2008), *The New Yorker*, and he maintains long-term relationships with many international publications. Platon has published four books, with topics ranging from the power of world leaders to the dignity of those who serve in the US military. In 2013 he founded the People's Portfolio, a non-profit foundation dedicated to celebrating emerging human rights. The People's Portfolio creates a visual language that breaks barriers, expands dignity, fights discrimination and enlists the public to support human rights around the world. Platon is a Member of the Board, Arts and Culture and Steward, Economic Growth and Social Inclusion Initiative, World Economic Forum. His life's work is the subject of a Netflix documentary, *Abstract: The Art of Design*. His first film, *My Body Is Not A Weapon* (2019), features survivors of wartime sexual violence and the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Denis Mukwege. Platon is currently serving as a World Arts Forum board member.

Cultural Leaders



Yo-Yo Ma

Yo-Yo Ma began to study the cello at the age of four. He attended the Juilliard School in New York and graduated from Harvard University in 1976. His multi-faceted career is testament to a continual search for new ways to communicate with audiences and his personal desire for artistic growth and renewal. He maintains a balance between engagements as soloist with orchestras worldwide and recital and chamber music activities. He has made over 90 albums, including 18 Grammy award winners. Yo-Yo Ma is Artistic Director of Silkroad, an organization that promotes cross-cultural performances and exciting collaborations where education, business and the arts come together. His work focuses on the transformative power of music in people's lives. He is a Member of the Board of Trustees, Aspen Institute, and a Member of the Board of Trustees, World Economic Forum. He has performed for eight American presidents, including President Obama on the occasion of the 56th inaugural ceremony and In 2006 received a Crystal Award from the World Economic Forum.

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