



The Embassy of Mexico is pleased to transmit the following information published by the Japan Art Association

The recipients of the 23rd PRAEMIUM IMPERIALE

On Monday, July 11, the names of the new Praemium Imperiale Laureates were announced in London, Berlin, Paris, Rome, New York and Tokyo. The 5 recipients are as follows:



Bill Viola	(USA)	Painting
Anish Kapoor	(UK)	Sculpture
Ricardo Legorreta	(Mexico)	Architecture
Seiji Ozawa	(Japan)	Music
Judi Dench	(UK)	Theatre/Film

Ricardo Legorreta is Mexico’s most significant living architect. He combines the traditions of Western modernism with the building culture of his native country. Vibrant color, geometric shapes, fountains, light-filled spaces, and intimate courtyards are hallmarks of his style. With more than 100 design projects to his name he has created a diverse body of work in Mexico and abroad.

Legorreta was born in 1931 in Mexico City, where he studied architecture. After a partnership with José Villagrán, he set up his own practice. An early building - the Camino Real Hotel Mexico City (1968) – is one of his favorites because he says it helped him discover his Mexican roots.

He went on to design Montalban House in Los Angeles (1985), the Museum of Contemporary Art in Monterrey (1991) the Metropolitan Cathedral of Managua (1993), Pershing Square in Los Angeles (1993), Carnegie Mellon

College of Business & Computer Science in Qatar (2009), Georgetown School of Foreign Services in Qatar (2011), and many other public and private buildings, and urban spaces. Legorreta now works with his youngest son, Victor. It’s a collaboration he’s particularly proud of. He will be the first Mexican artist to receive the Praemium Imperiale.

The artists are recognized and awarded for their achievements, for the impact they have had internationally on the arts, and for their role in enriching the global community. The five recipients each receive 15 million yen (approximately \$182,000 / EUR 130,000 / £113,000), and a diploma and medal presented by honorary patron of the Japan Art Association Prince Hitachi in an awards ceremony in Tokyo. The awards ceremony will be held in Tokyo on October 19, 2011.

In addition to the Praemium Imperiale awards in 5 categories, the Japan Art Association gives an annual grant of 5 million yen to a group or institution that encourages the involvement of young people in the arts.

2011 Grant for Young Artists has been shared by:
The Royal Court Young Writers Programme (London)
Southbank Sinfonia (London)

The award was announced on July 11 at a press conference in London at Claridge’s, presided over by International Advisor Lord Patten of Barnes, in the presence of Prince and Princess Hitachi. Mr. Hisashi Hieda, chairman of the Japan Art Association, gave the diploma and grant of 2.5 million yen (approximately \$30,000 / EUR 21,500 / £18,500) each to representatives of the Royal Court Young Writers Programme and Southbank Sinfonia at the press conference in London.

The related events for your coverage are:

On October 18: Joint press conference of the laureates and the international advisors followed by individual press meetings of each laureate. On October 19, after the awards ceremony scheduled at 17:00, there will be a cocktail reception open to the press. On October 20, at 16:00 there will be a commemorative lecture by the laureate of architecture category.

Given information and photos should not be used for other purposes but for reporting of the Praemium Imperiale. When reporting, all the credits including the names of the works, dates and captions should be quoted as shown in the press kit, and in order to confirm this, we retain the right to proofread the articles.

Web site: <http://www.japanart.or.jp> <http://www.praemiumimperiale.org>
http://www.legorretalegorreta.com/lego_new/index.php