

Press information

Jury announces winners of art contest for Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut on the island of Riems

Insel Riems, 02 May 2013. On Tuesday, April 30, the winners of the nationwide “art for architecture” contest for the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut were selected. The contest had been set up by the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Betrieb für Bau und Liegenschaften Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (BBL M-V), as part of the comprehensive building project of the FLI on the island of Riems. A supra-regional jury chaired by Leonie Baumann, chancellor of the Berlin-Weißensee Art College, recommended the large surface sculpture „Insulaner“ (islanders) designed by Barbara Trautmann for the external works of the institute and the mural „Grenzen und Ereignisse“ (borders and events) designed by Matthias Geitel for the interior of the conference facilities. As of July 3, the Pommersche Landesmuseum Greifswald will exhibit all design proposals submitted in the frame of this contest.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Mettenleiter, President of the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut and in this function member of the jury, was very pleased with the two recommendations which were the result of intensive two-day discussions. „Both pieces of art are closely related to the work of the institute on the island of Riems and reflect the tasks and mission of the FLI from an artistic point of view“.

The surface sculpture designed by the Berlin artist Barbara Trautmann, which consists of 189 individual objects, picks up the crystalline structure of the virus model commonly used in virus research - the icosahedron. The artist plans to arrange these objects on the institute's grounds in such a way that from the upper floors of the long-stretched laboratory tract and the conference facilities they will be perceived as an artistically alienated electron microscope image. With its optimistic coloring, the structure of this surface sculpture adopted from science has the potential to become a significant, contemporary symbol of the institute, which since 2004 has been carrying the programmatic additional designation “Institute for Animal Health”.

The central theme of the mural designed by Matthias Geitel for the conference and dining hall, which after completion of the building will not only accommodate the institute's employees but also guests from all over the world, is globalization and shows both, the dangers of a global virus spread and the chances offered by increasing international cooperations and scientific networks.

Overall, the jury was pleased with the wide artistic spectrum of the 28 fascinating and high-quality proposals which deal with the work of the worldwide oldest virological institute. All proposals submitted in the frame of this contest as well as photographs of the pieces of art that are already present on the island (created among others by Waldemar Grzimek and the painter Hans Neubert) will be presented to the public as of July 3, 2013, in the atrium of the Pommersche Landesmuseum Greifswald for a duration of two months.