

OPEN PRIZE 10th Edition



Special Prize to the
67th Venice International Film Festival

The OPEN Prize is awarded to the director John Woo

Arte Communications launches the 10th edition of the OPEN Prize, on the occasion of OPEN 13. International Exhibition of Sculptures and Installations. The prize will be awarded to a director taking part in the 67th Venice International Film Festival whose work reveals, in an unprecedented way, a fruitful interest in the fascinating theme of the mutual interaction between art and cinema, two art forms which live on image and are nourished by the desire to express emotions.

The institution of this award, conceived in 2000 by Paolo De Grandis and Pierre Restany, developed parallel to OPEN, the International Exhibition of Sculptures and Installations, which opens its thirteenth edition this year on September 1st at Venice Lido and San Servolo Island.

The OPEN 2010 Prize, a work conceived and realised by the Master Gaspare Manos, has been awarded to the director John Woo. The jury, chaired by Paolo De Grandis, gave this interpretation:

"The OPEN 2010 Prize has been awarded to the director John Woo - he was awarded the Career Golden Lion at the 67th International Film Festival - who with his revolutionary concept of staging and editing has renewed action films right from the foundation, leading to the most extreme stylisation, akin to the visual arts. In particular, some memorable sequences in *Face/Off* inspired the work *The Face Machine* by the artist Amy Cheung, presented at OPEN 13th International Exhibition of Sculptures and Installations. So this year too the OPEN Prize acts as a kind of added value, unequivocally and manifestly confirming the deep bond between art and the cinema; a bond that is often only hinted at, sometimes accentuated, and sometimes even camouflaged.

A work of art is inspired by a movie, an artist and a director reflect on the same theme: violence. Are there any criteria that can justify violence, are there principles or ideologies that can excuse it, is it possible to make a distinction between good violence and bad violence?

Amy Cheung and John Woo use two different forms of expression, but they present the same game of roles: interchangeable faces, two for *Face/Off*, eight for *The Face Machine*, a potentially infinite number for the spectator."

The Master Gaspare Manos says: "All great art draws its inspiration from nature. All great nature draws its strength from the reality of its harsh surroundings. The sculpture chosen for the OPEN Film Award 2010 is inspired by the flowers of a cactus plant I own. Cactuses produce some of the most beautiful flowers despite growing in a tough and unforgiving environment. The film industry with its dog-eats-dog competitive nature also - like a cactus - gives life to moving beautiful *flowers* in the form of memorable films.

I am particularly pleased that my sculpture *CACTUS 1* goes to the film director John Woo. He has been a consistent innovator in his field and has produced box office hits admired world-wide by the public. It pleases me all the more that it is John Woo who receives my sculpture as I was also born in Asia, which means that I carry within my soul, and through my work as an artist, a great respect for the Asian art tradition and for its philosophy of life and work".

Previous winning directors were Joao Botelho with the film *Quem es tu?*, Julie Taymor with *Frida*, Takeshi Kitano with *Zatoichi*, Marziyeh Meshkini with *Sag - haye velgard*, Stanley Kwan with *Changhen ge (Everlasting Regret)*, Jia Zhangke with *Dong*, Peter Greenaway with *Nightwatching*, Philip Haas with *The Butcher's Shop* and Michael Moore with *Capitalism: A Love Story*.

The OPEN exhibition has been held for thirteen years, coinciding with the Venice Film Festival, confirming the precise intent to strengthen the bond that exists between art and the cinema; the creation of OPEN Prize bears witness to this close and fertile relationship.

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