

TAJSA ROMA CULTURAL HERITAGE PRIZE 2021



The Tajsa Roma Cultural Heritage Prize was launched in 2019 by the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC). Embodying the ERIAC founding principles, the Tajsa Prize honors a Roma individual who – by drawing from Roma cultural heritage – enriches the Roma arts and culture scene as well as shapes and reinvents forms of Roma cultural expressions for the next generation. The prize awards an outstanding Roma creative as one of the leading voices of the Roma cultural movement today. The Tajsa Prize is entirely sponsored by ERIAC Associate Members through their membership fees. This allows for the unique redistribution of those contributions back to the community by supporting the development and growth of

an exceptional Roma professional in the field of arts and culture. The prize is designed by leading Roma artist Robert Gabris and consists of an endowment of 5.000 Euros.

The nominations for this year's Tajsa Prize were submitted by the ERIAC community consisting of over 230 individual and institutional members. The jury of the Tajsa Prize consists of the ERIAC Barvalipe Academy composed of 15 influential and internationally acclaimed Roma arts and culture experts from across the globe. They have selected five finalists competing for this special honor.

Tonight, the members of the Barvalipe Academy will reveal the winner of the 2021 Tajsa Roma Cultural Heritage Prize.

FINALISTS



ZITA MOLDOVAN
ROMANIA

Zita Moldovan is one of the most well-known Roma actresses in Romania. She is a journalist, and the co-founder of the first Roma theatre in Romania – Giuvlipen Theatre Company. She is also a fashion designer, creating collections inspired by the cultural heritage of Romani traditional clothing.



SELMA SELMAN
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Selma Selman is a Romani artist and activist from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Her work embodies the struggles of her own life as well as her community, employing a plethora of media such as performance, painting, photography and video installations. Selma is also the founder of the organization "Get the Heck To School" which aims to empower Roma girls all around the world who face poverty and social ostracism.



**MAŁGORZATA
MIRGA-TAS**
POLAND

Małgorzata Mirga-Tas is a Polish-Romani visual artist, sculptor, painter, educator and activist. She has been selected to represent Poland at the 59th Venice Biennale; the first Romani artist to do so. She is the founder of JAW DIKH Foundation, which carries artistic and educational projects and hosts the Roma Artists in Residency Program in Czarna Gora, Poland.



SAMI MUSTAFA
KOSOVO / FRANCE

Sami Mustafa is an independent documentary director and producer born in Kosovo. He is one of the founders of the Romawood production company. He initiated the Jekh Kham Jekh Sel (One Sun One Nation) project in 2007 and the acclaimed Rolling Film Festival, which has been running since 2009. He is known for his first feature-length film, "Trapped by Law" (2015, Kosovo/Germany). He is also a film tutor and mentor to young Roma filmmakers.



GEORGE VASILESCU
ROMANIA

George Mihai Vasilescu is a visual artist and a tattoo artist from Romania. As a visual artist, he works with a variety of techniques including oil painting, prints, sculpting in bronze, plaster and ceramic, as well as photography and video. He has had several solo exhibitions and participated with works in group exhibitions around Europe. The themes that interest him are loneliness, the impossibility of love, and Roma identity and history.

